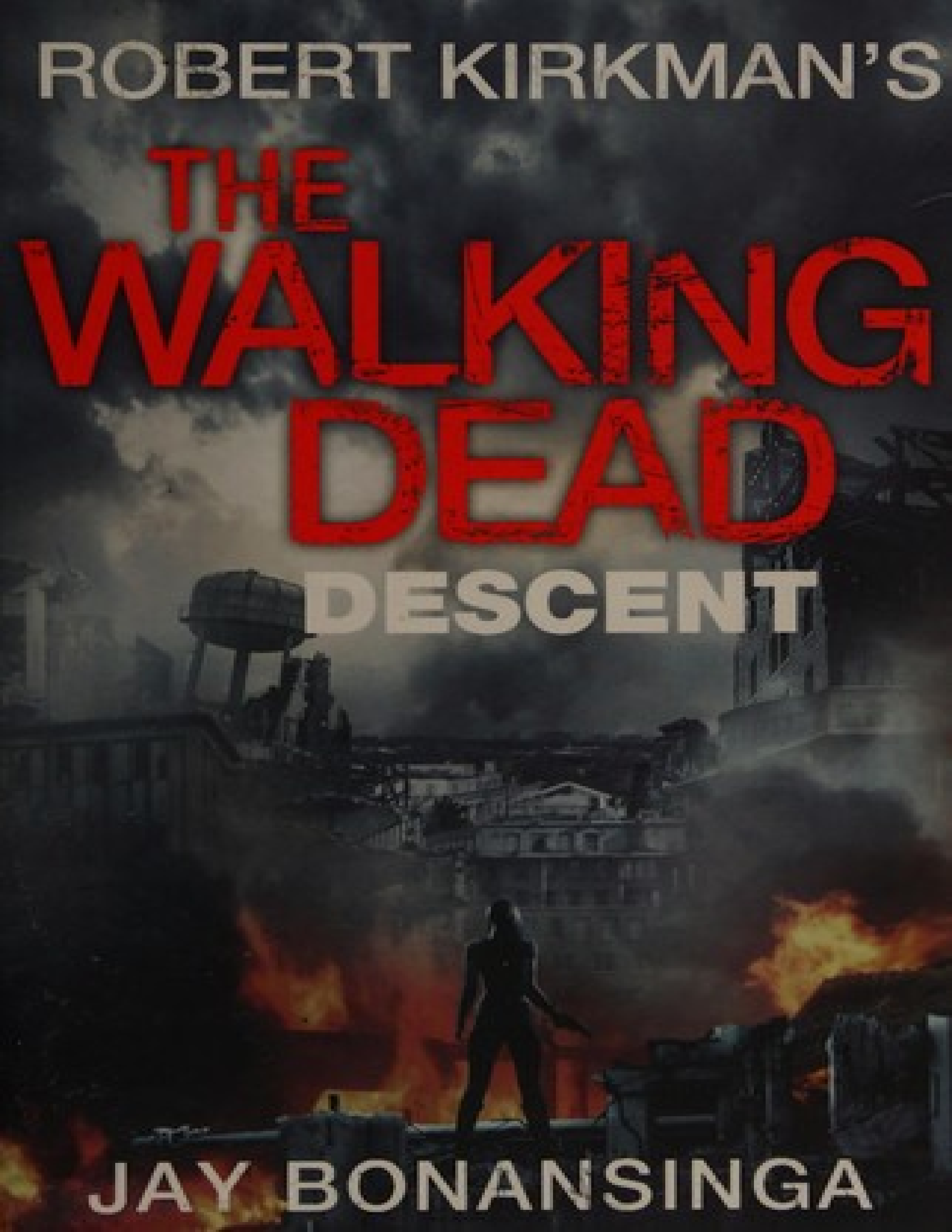

ROBERT KIRKMAN'S

THE WALKING DEAD

DESCENT

JAY BONANSINGA

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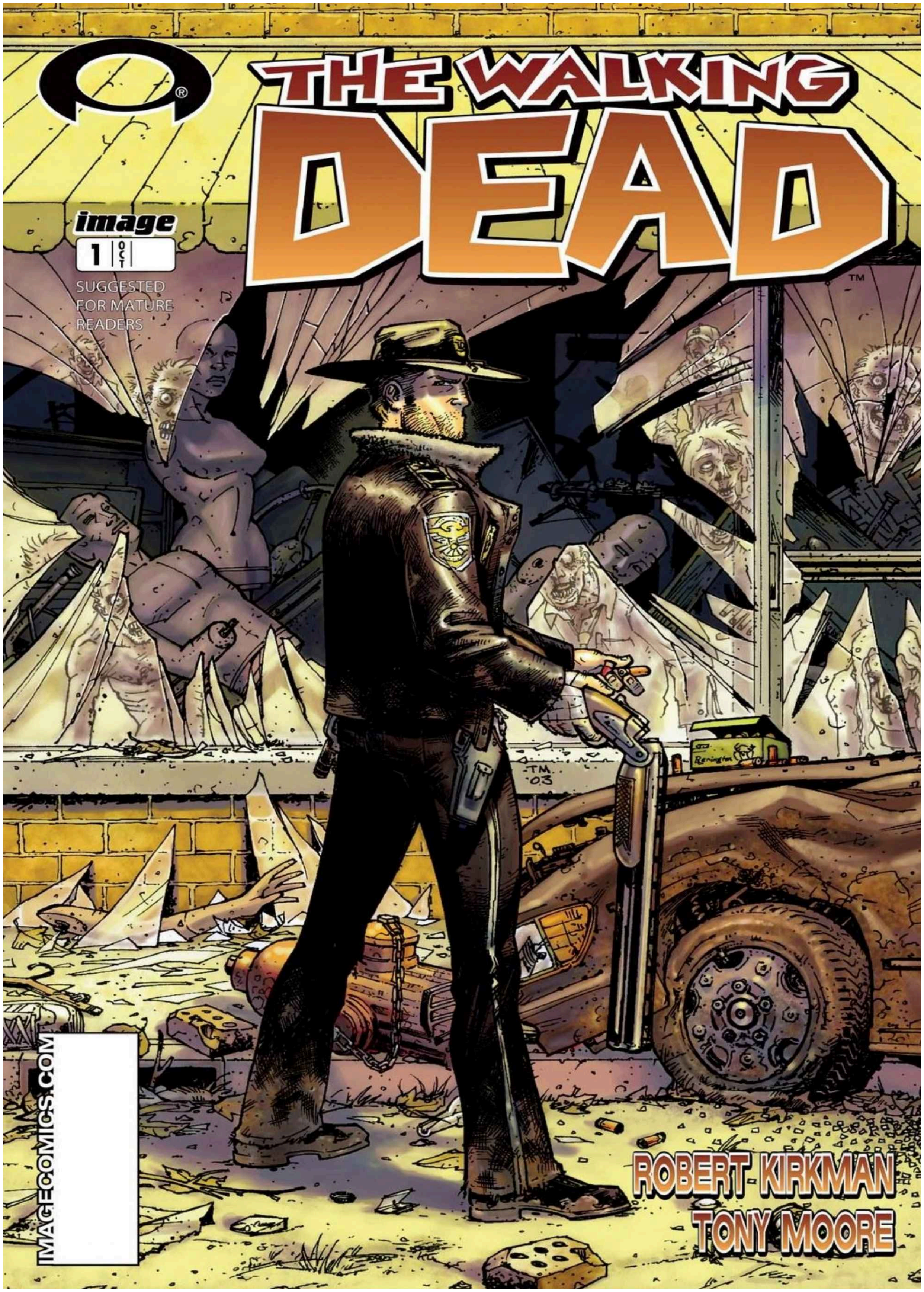
THE WALKING DEAD™
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1
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TONY MOORE
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TONY MOORE
Penciler, Inker, Gray tones

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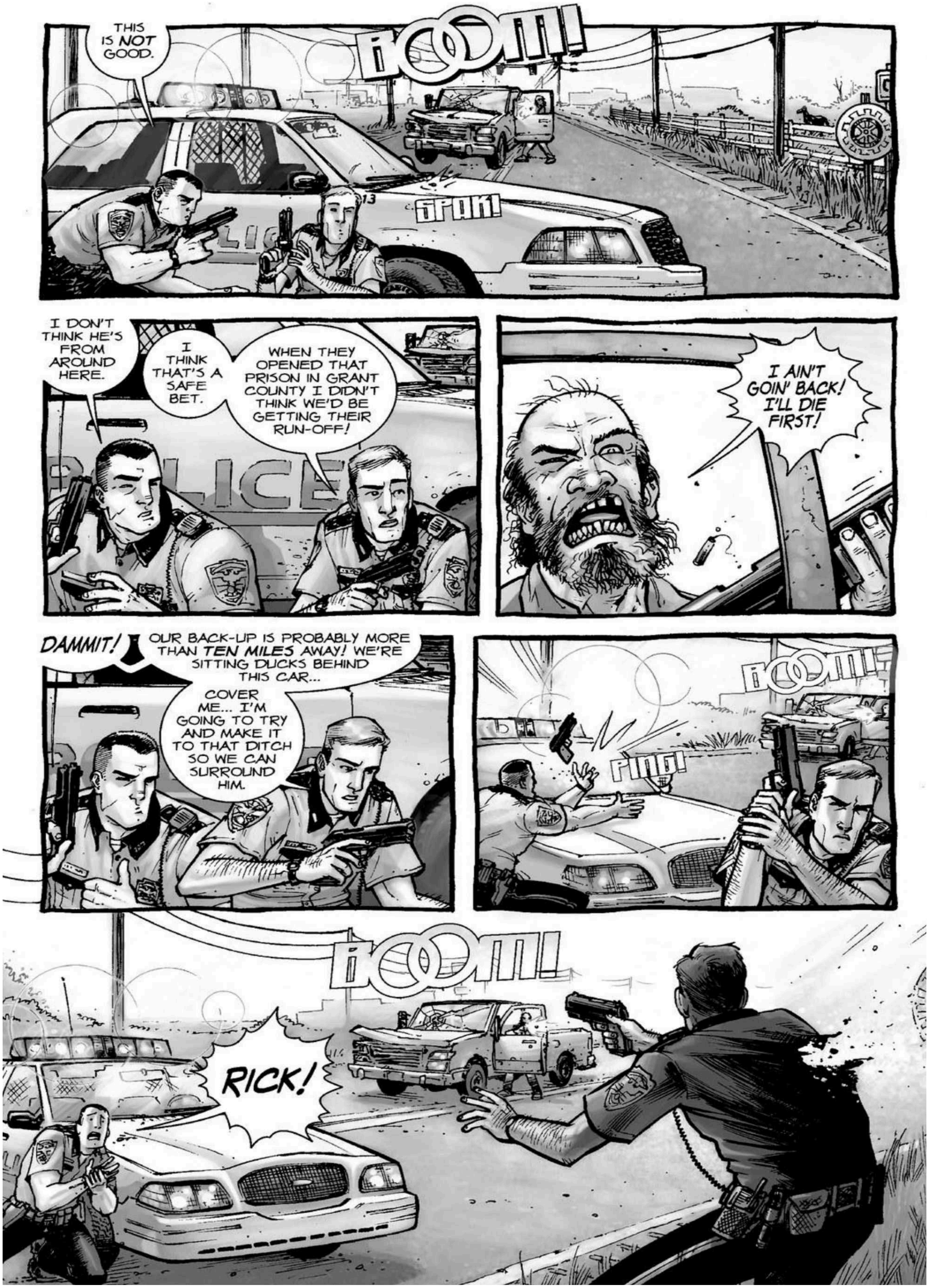
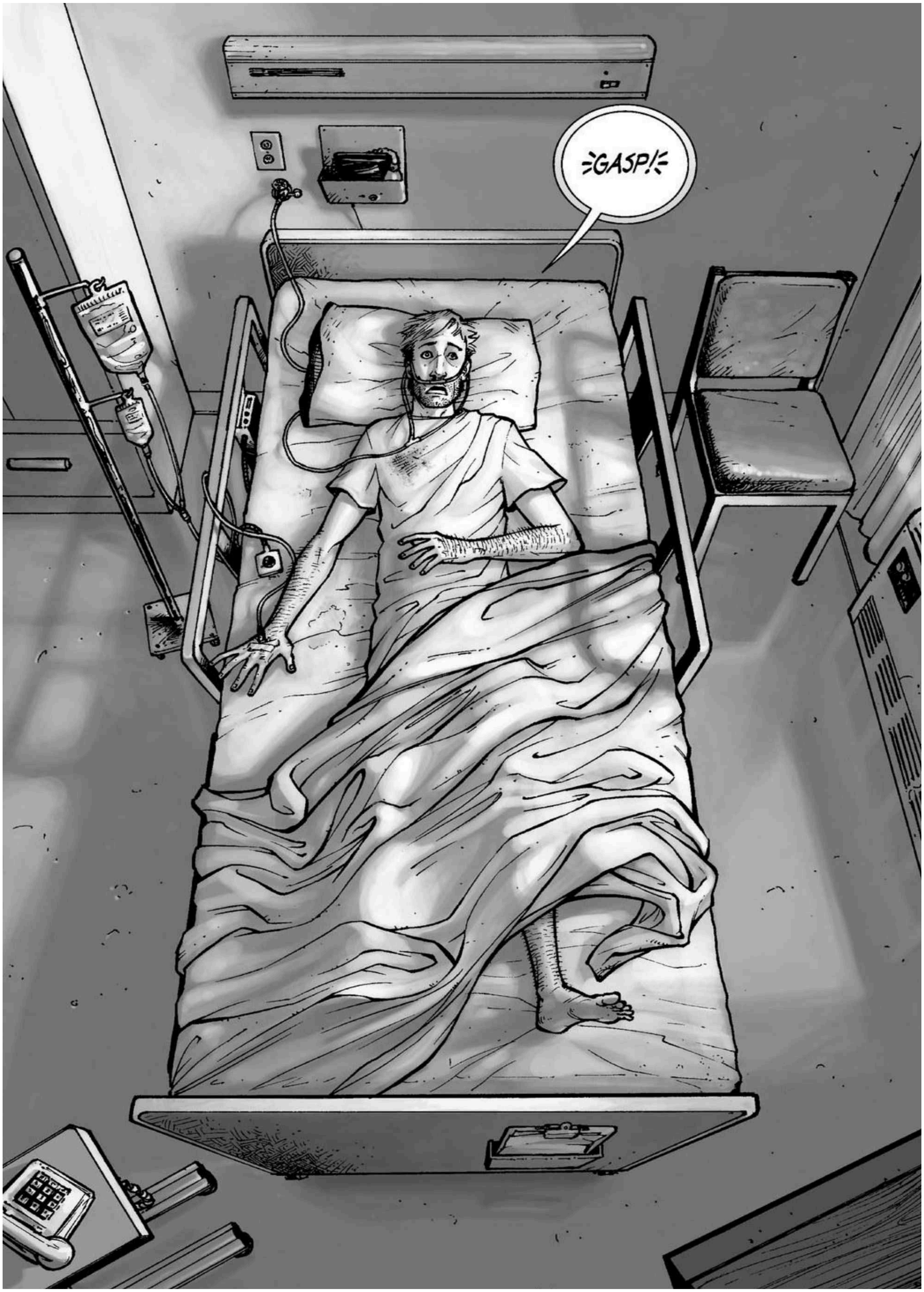
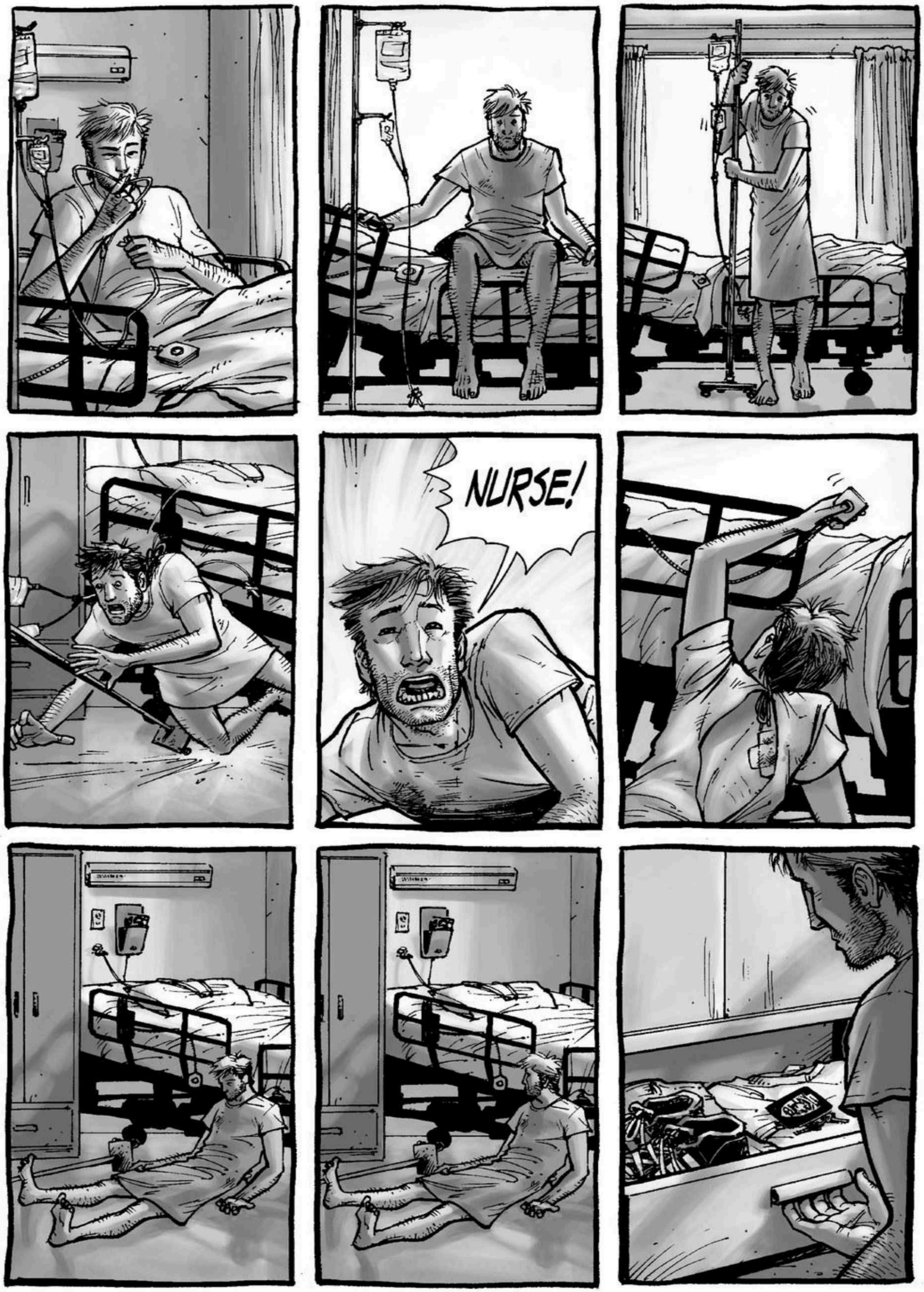
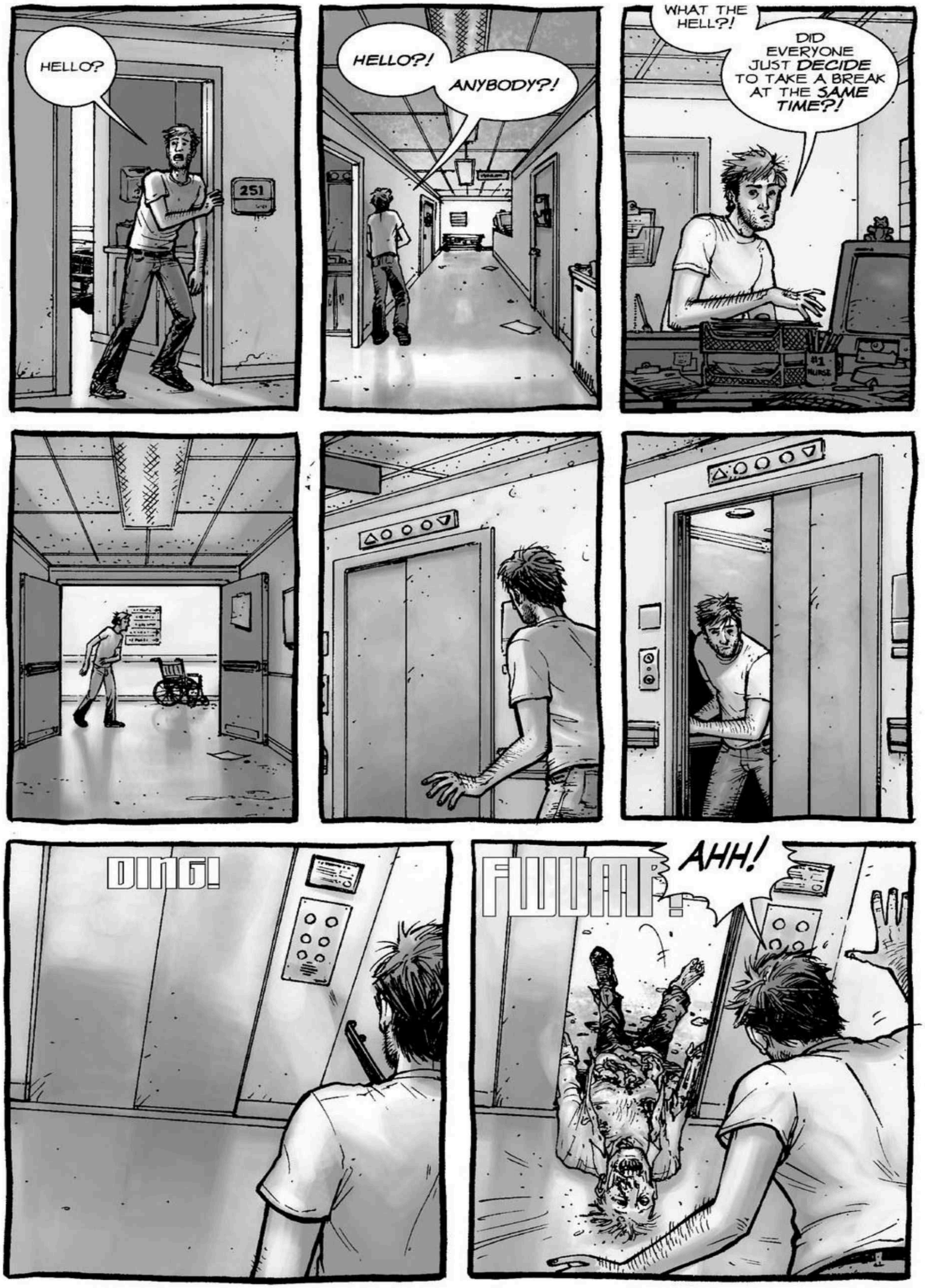
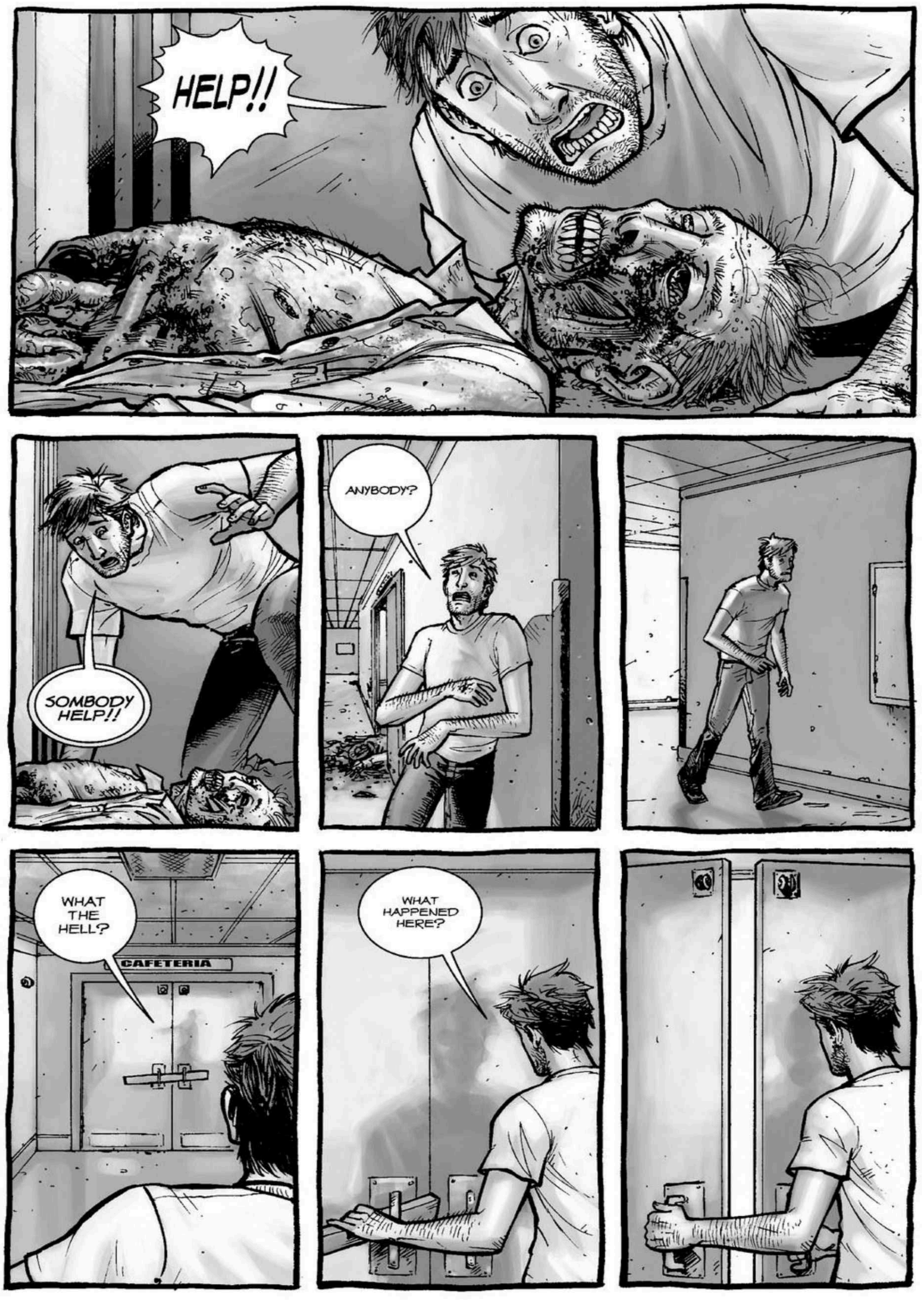
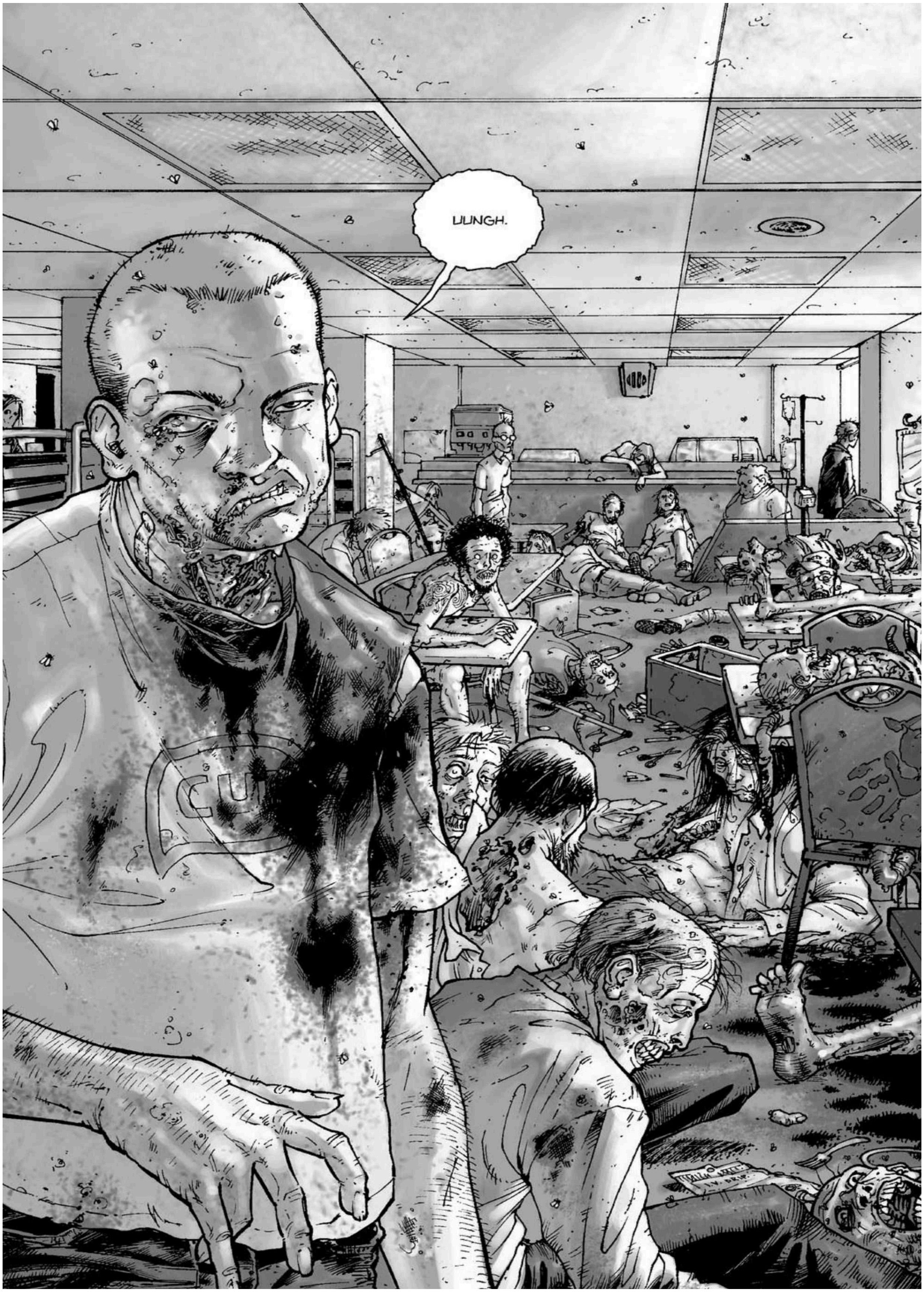

THIS IS NOT GOOD.
BOOM!
SPAK!
I DON'T THINK HE'S FROM AROUND HERE.
I THINK THAT'S A SAFE BET.
WHEN THEY OPENED THAT PRISON IN GRANT COUNTY I DIDN'T THINK WE'D BE GETTING THEIR RUN-OFF!
I AIN'T GOIN' BACK! I'LL DIE FIRST!
DAMMIT!
OUR BACK-UP IS PROBABLY MORE THAN TEN MILES AWAY! WE'RE SITTING DUCKS BEHIND THIS CAR...
COVER ME... I'M GOING TO TRY AND MAKE IT TO THAT DITCH SO WE CAN SURROUND HIM.
BOOM!
PING!
BOOM!
RICK!

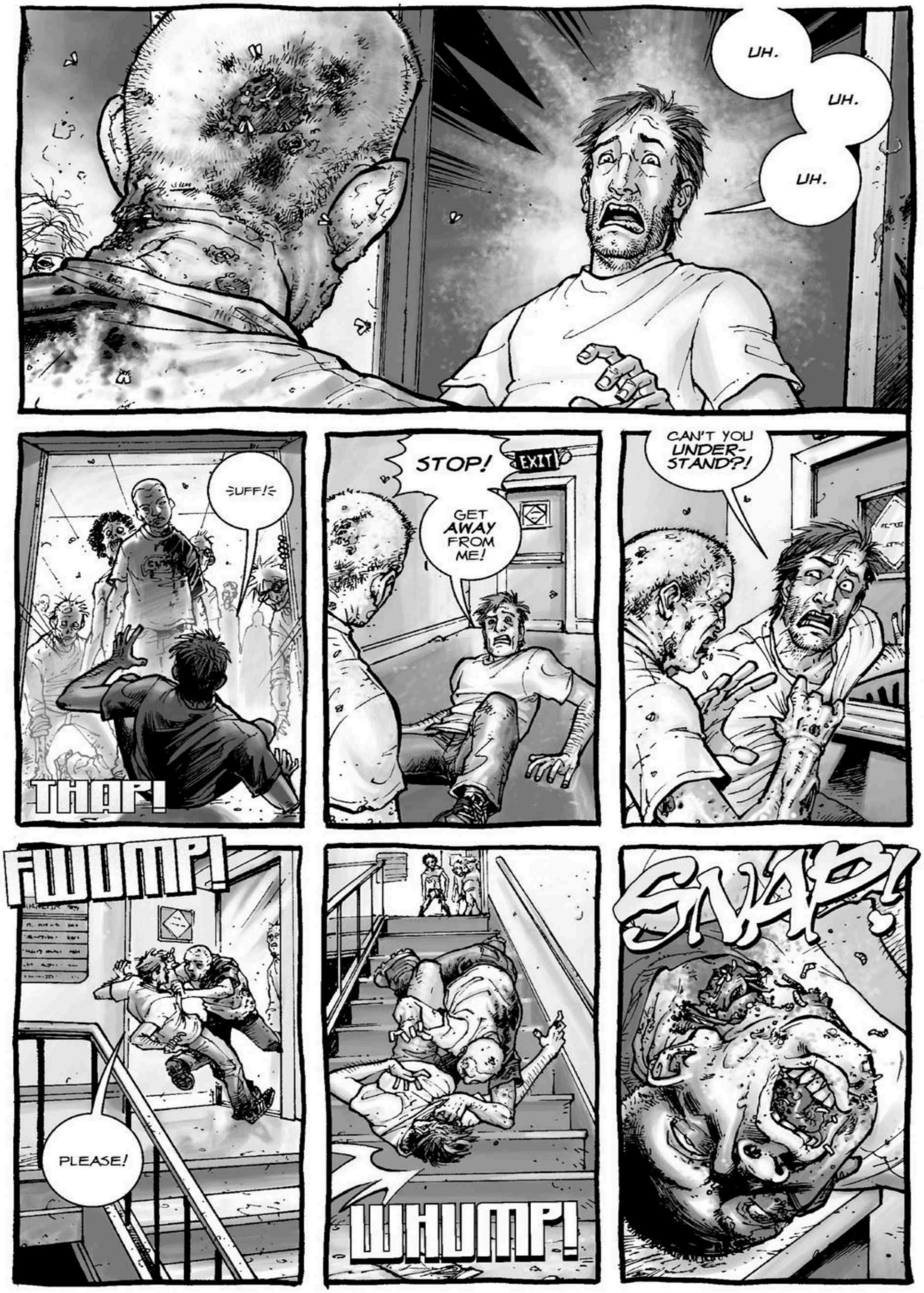

GASP!

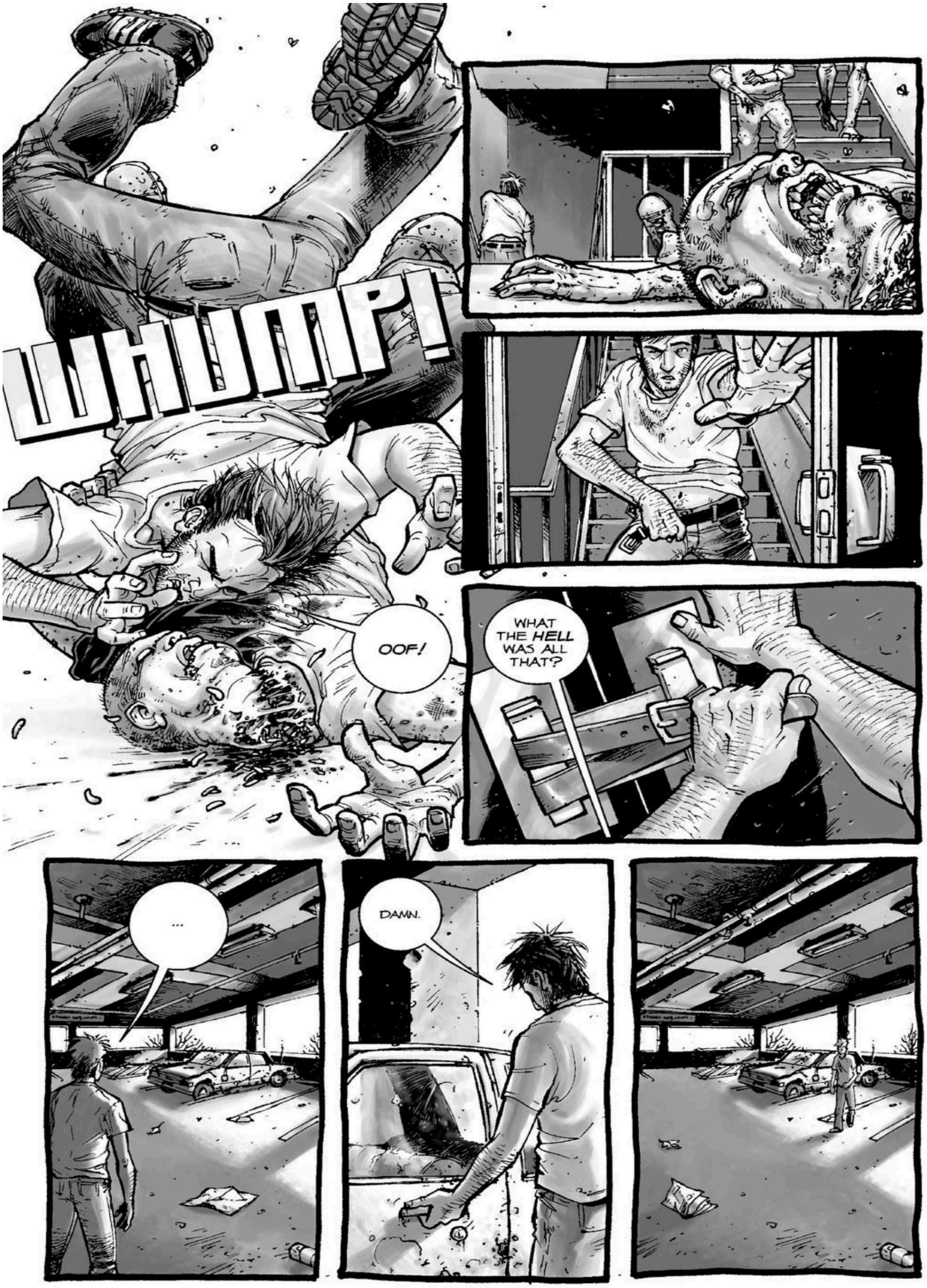

NURSE!

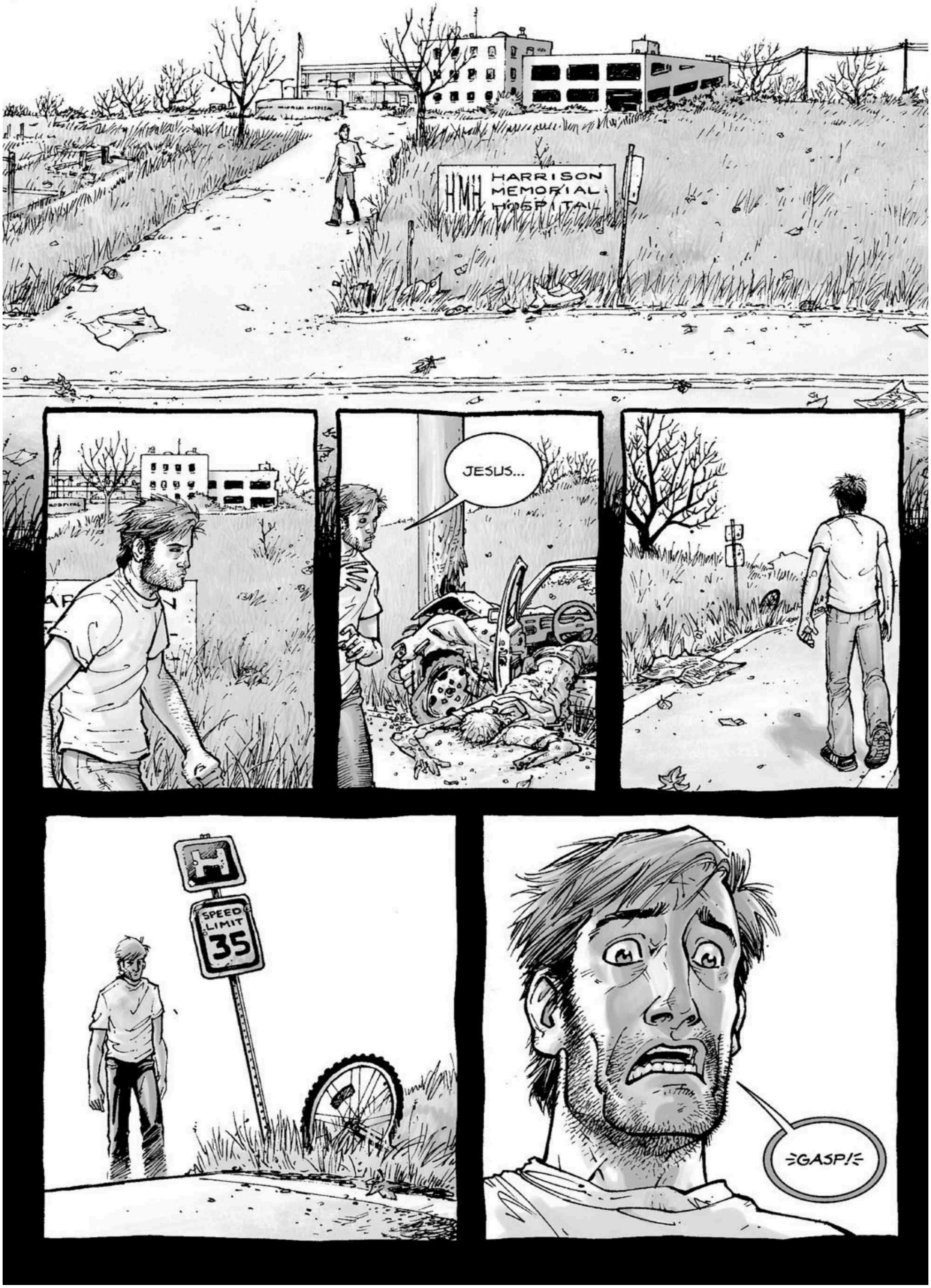

HELLO?
251
HELLO?!
ANYBODY?!
WHAT THE HELL?!
DID EVERYONE JUST DECIDE TO TAKE A BREAK AT THE SAME TIME?!
#1 NURSE
DING!
FWUMP!
AHH!

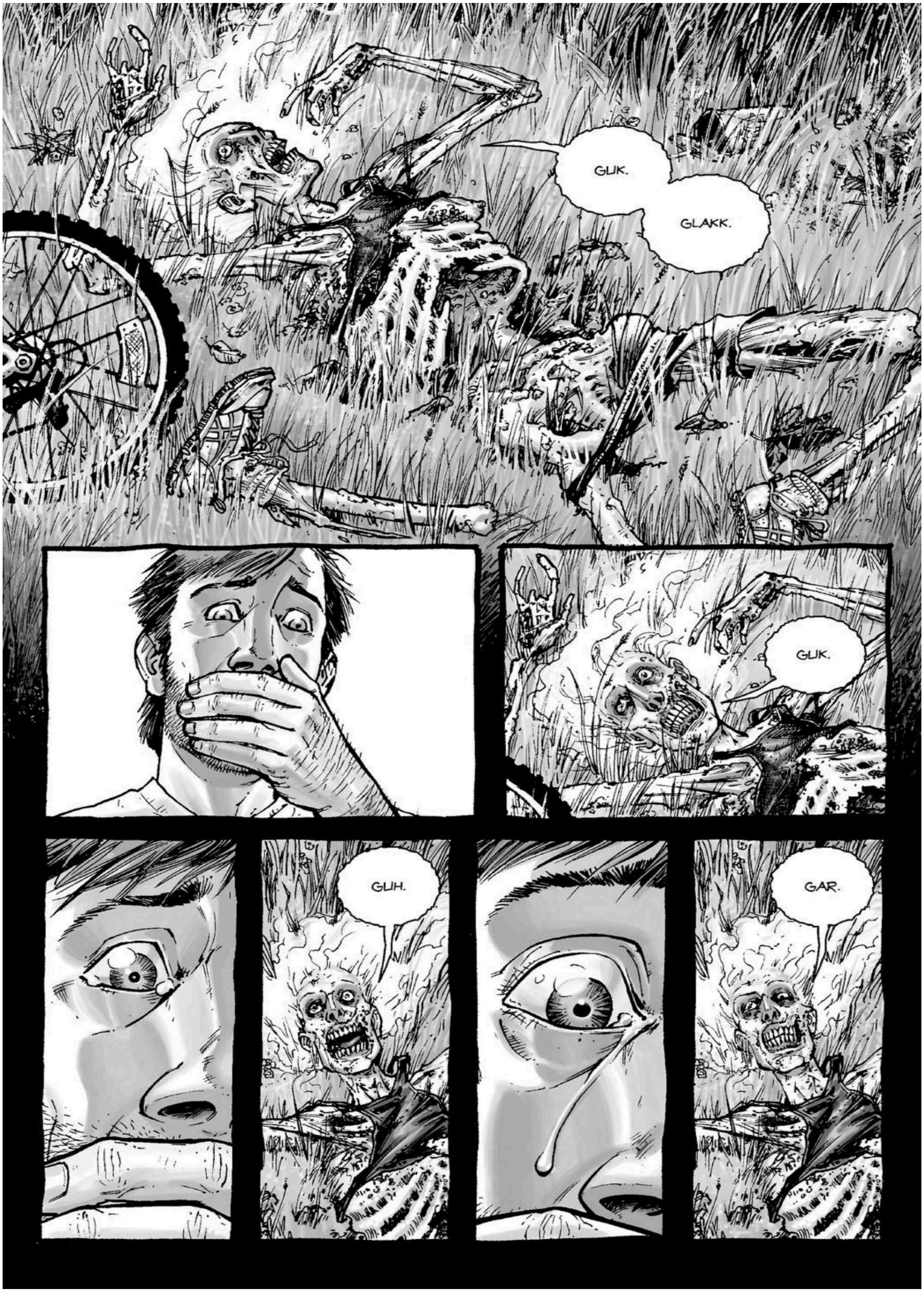

HELP!!
SOMBODY HELP!!
ANYBODY?
WHAT THE HELL?
CAFETERIA
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

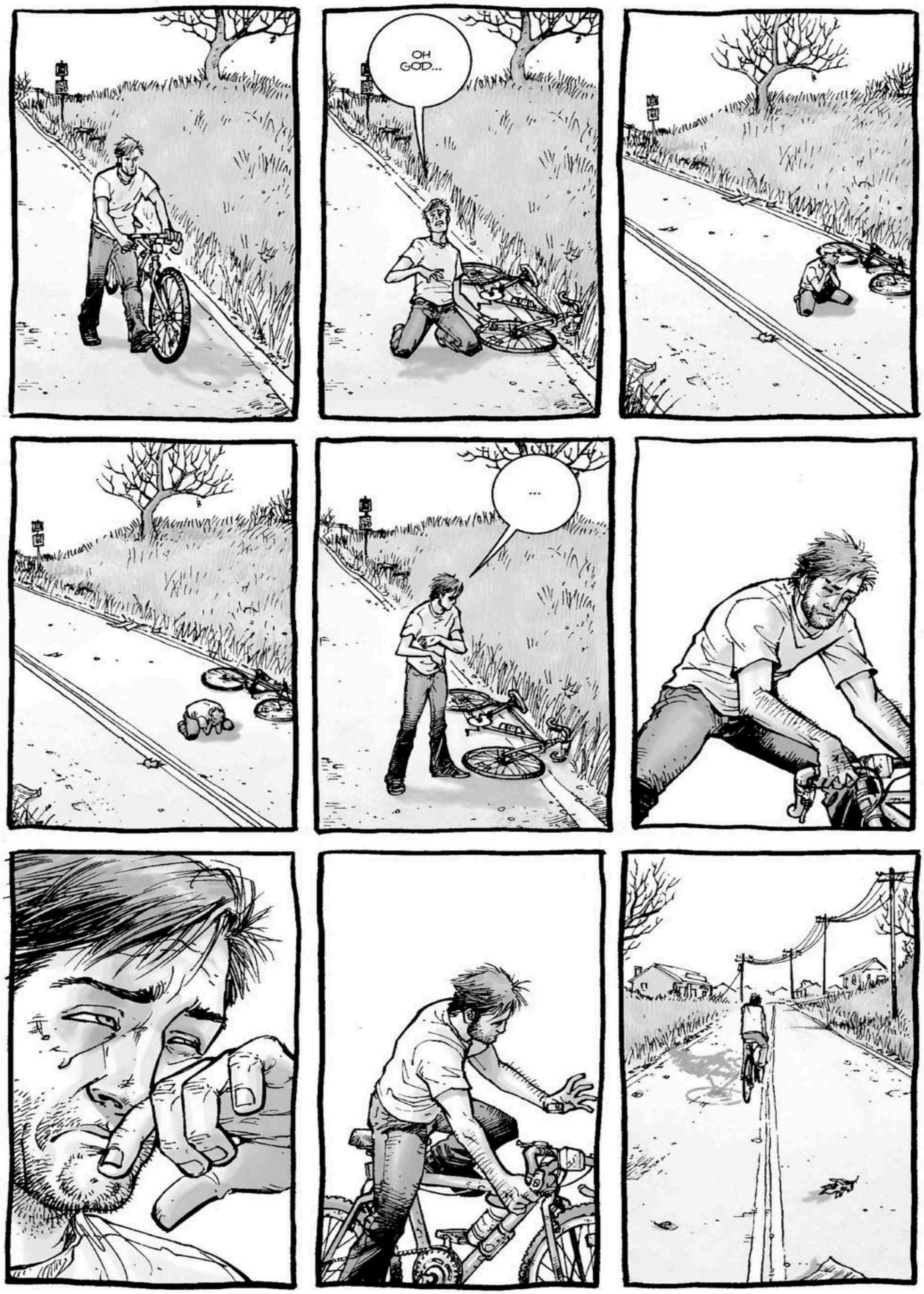

UUNGH.

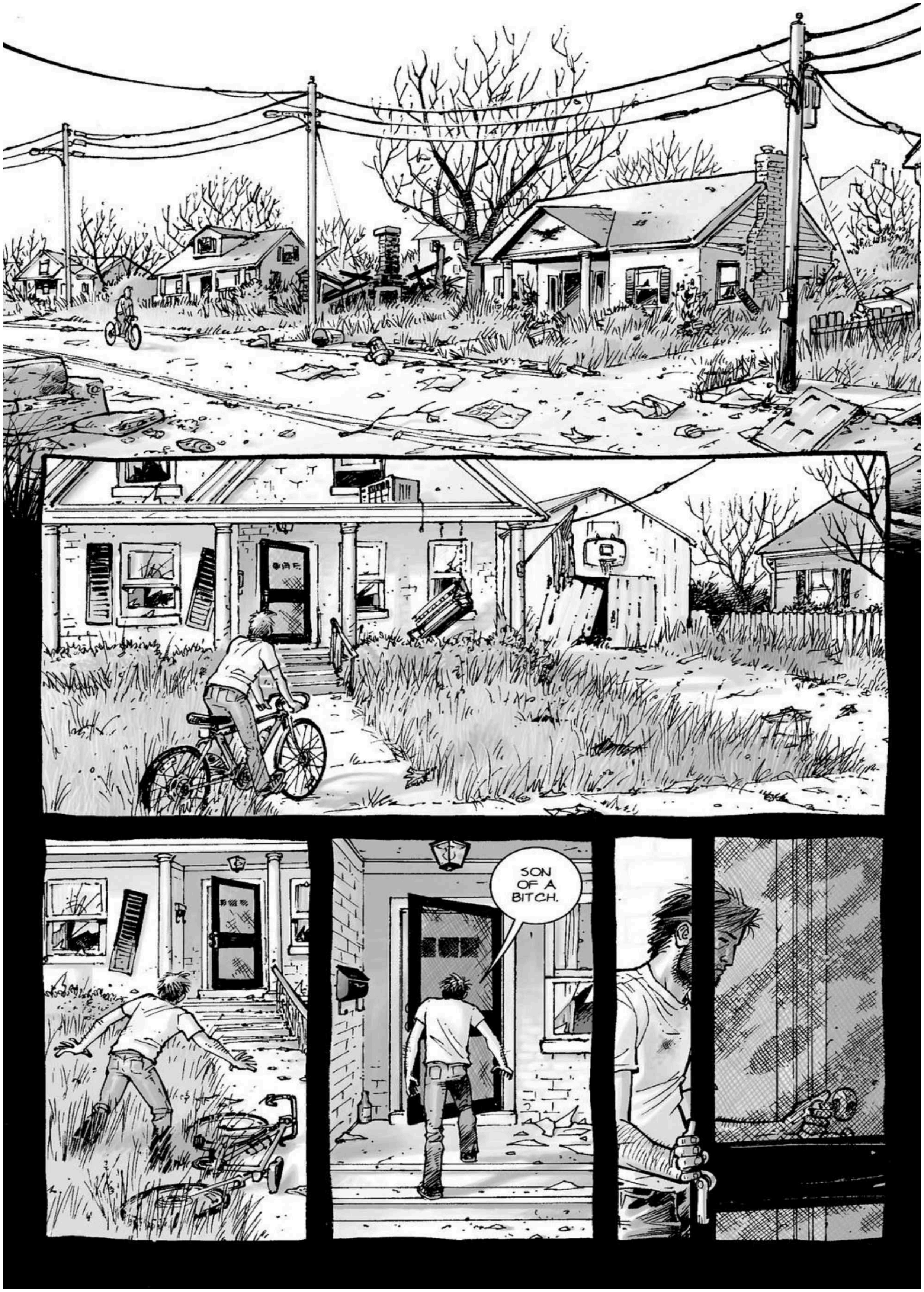

UH.
UH.
UH.
UFF!
THAP!
STOP!
EXIT
GET AWAY FROM ME!
CAN'T YOU UNDER-STAND?!
FWUMP!
PLEASE!
WHUMP!
SNAP!

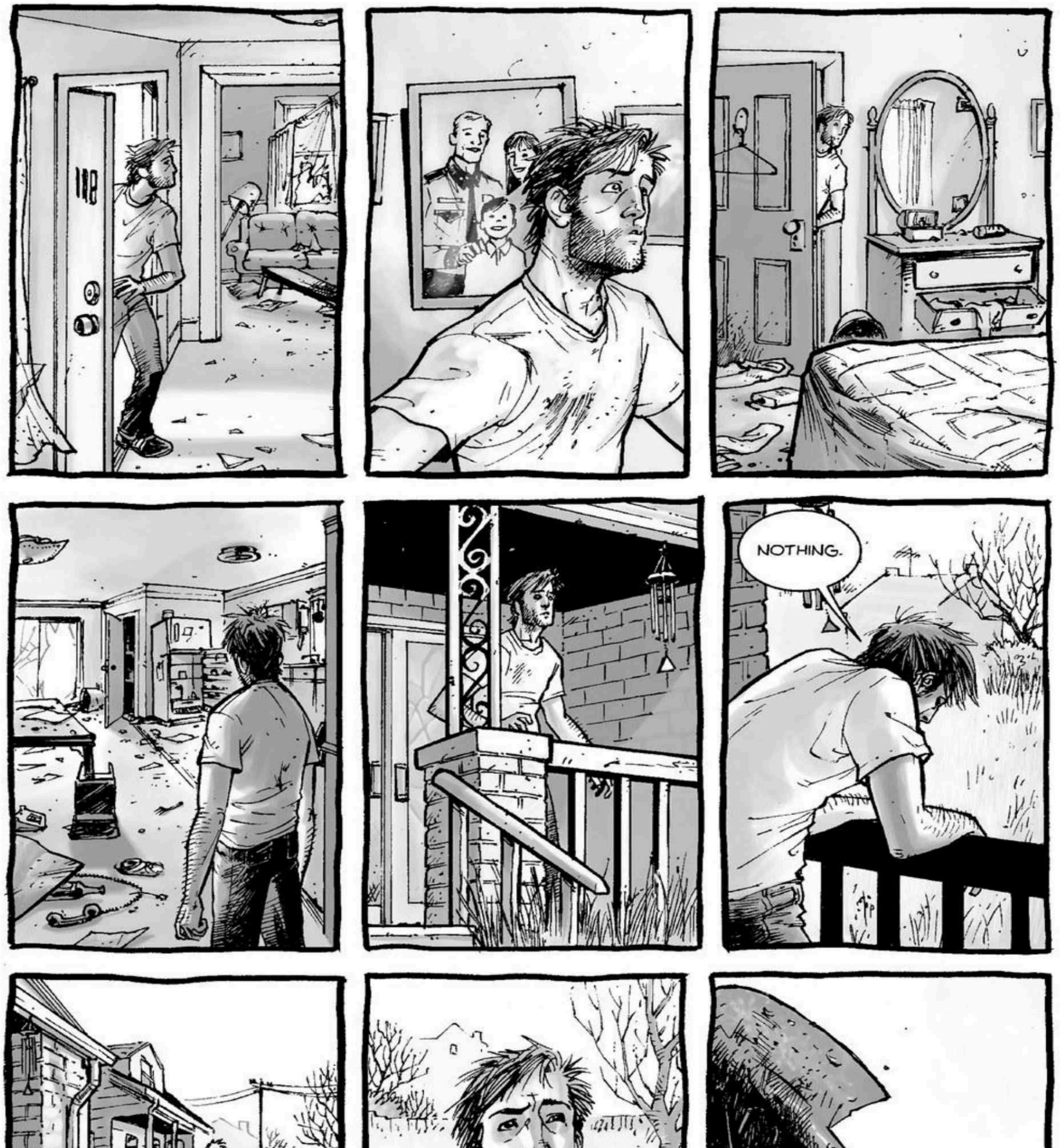

WHUMP!
OOF!
WHAT THE *HELL* WAS ALL THAT?
...
DAMN.

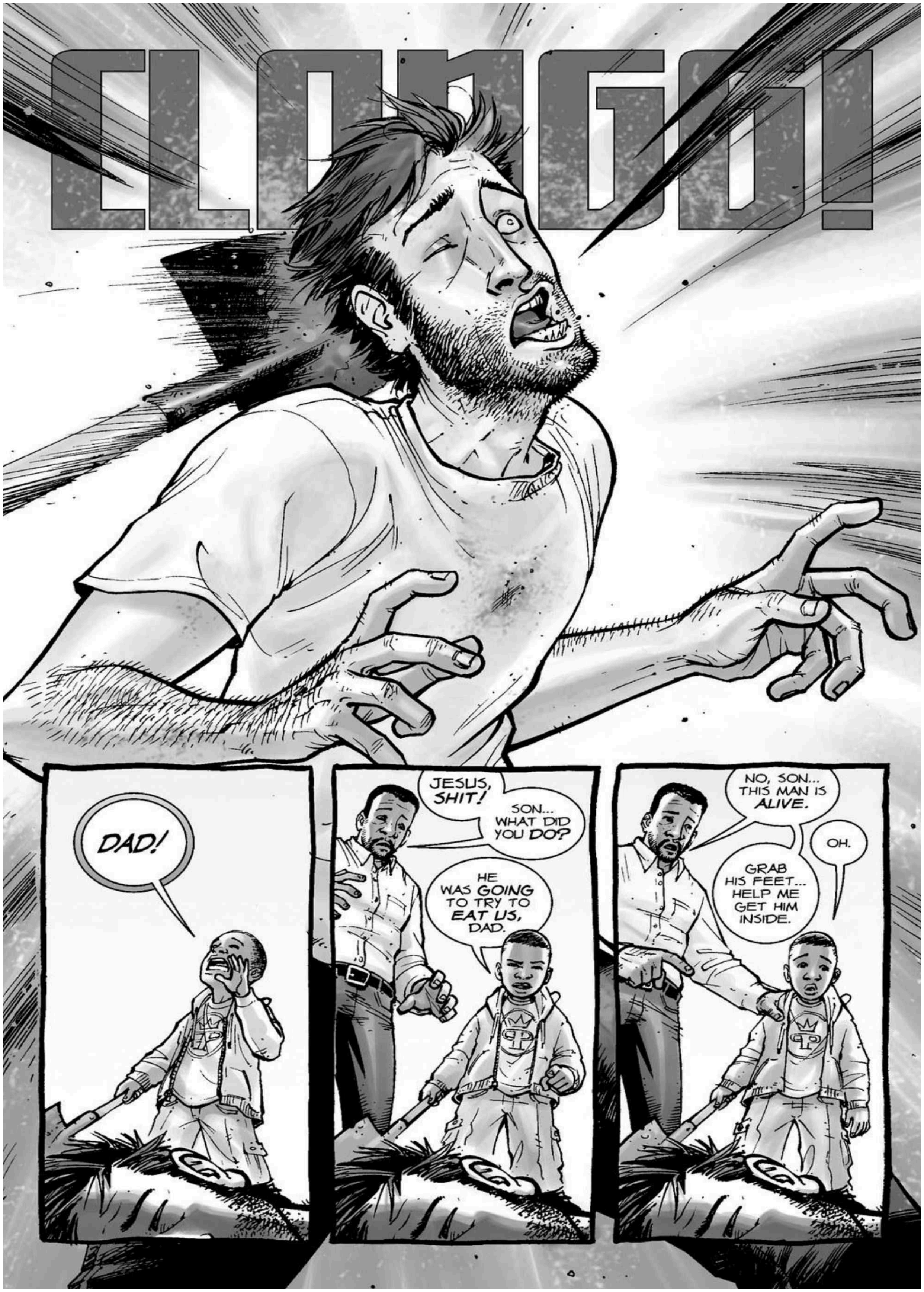

HMH
HARRISON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
JESUS...
SPEED LIMIT 35
=GASP!=

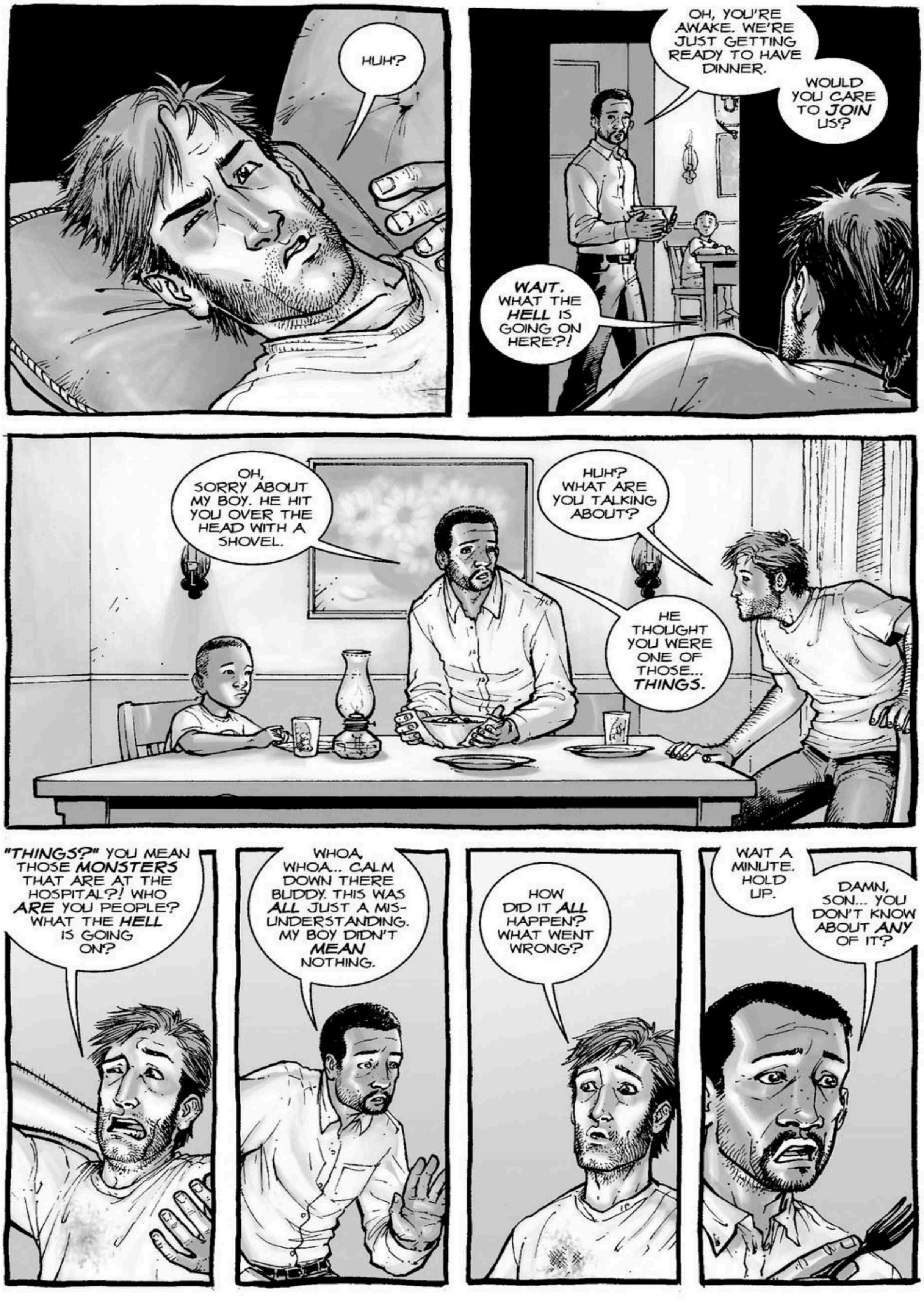

GUK.
GLAKK.
GUK.
GUH.
GAR.

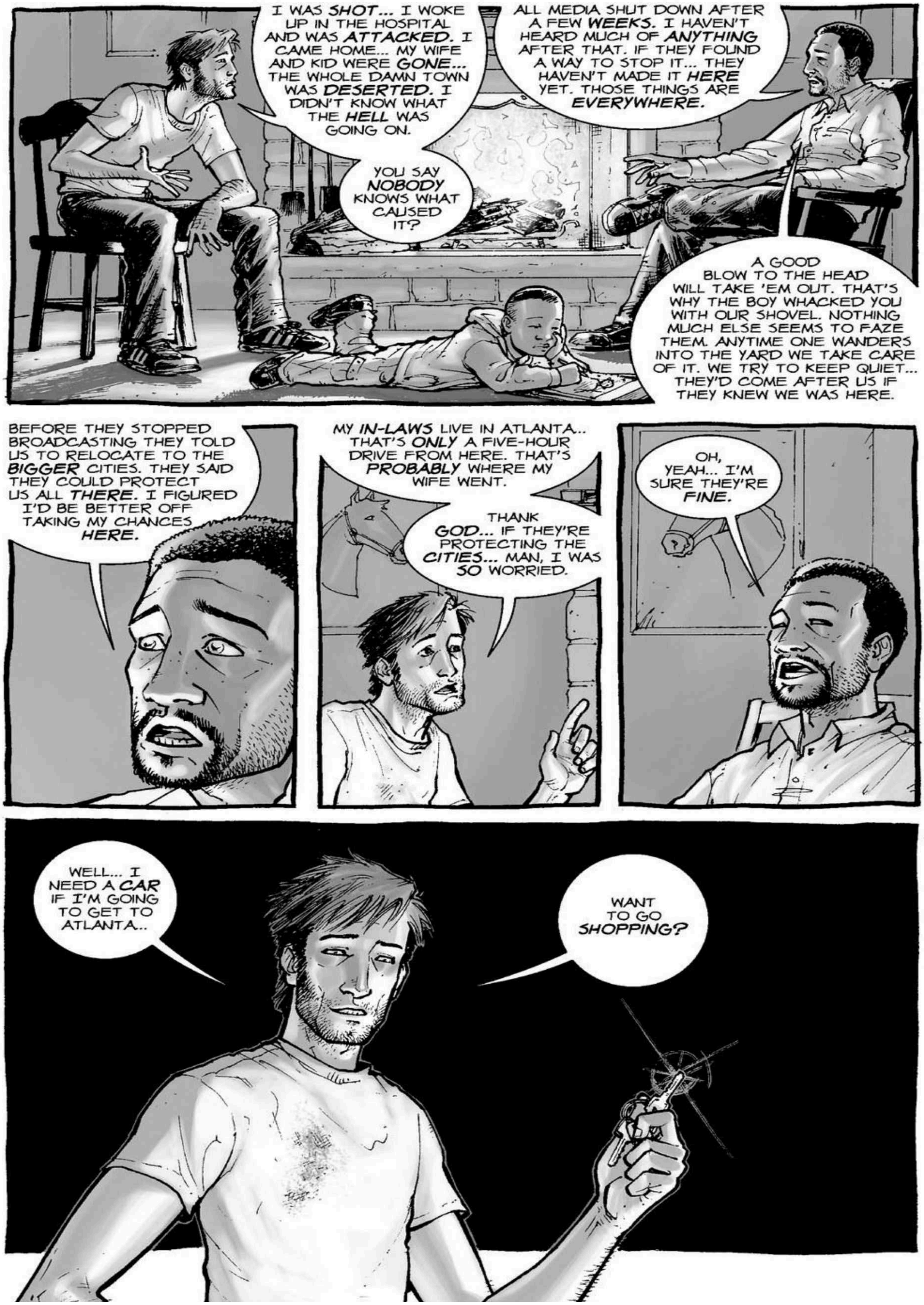

OH GOD...
...

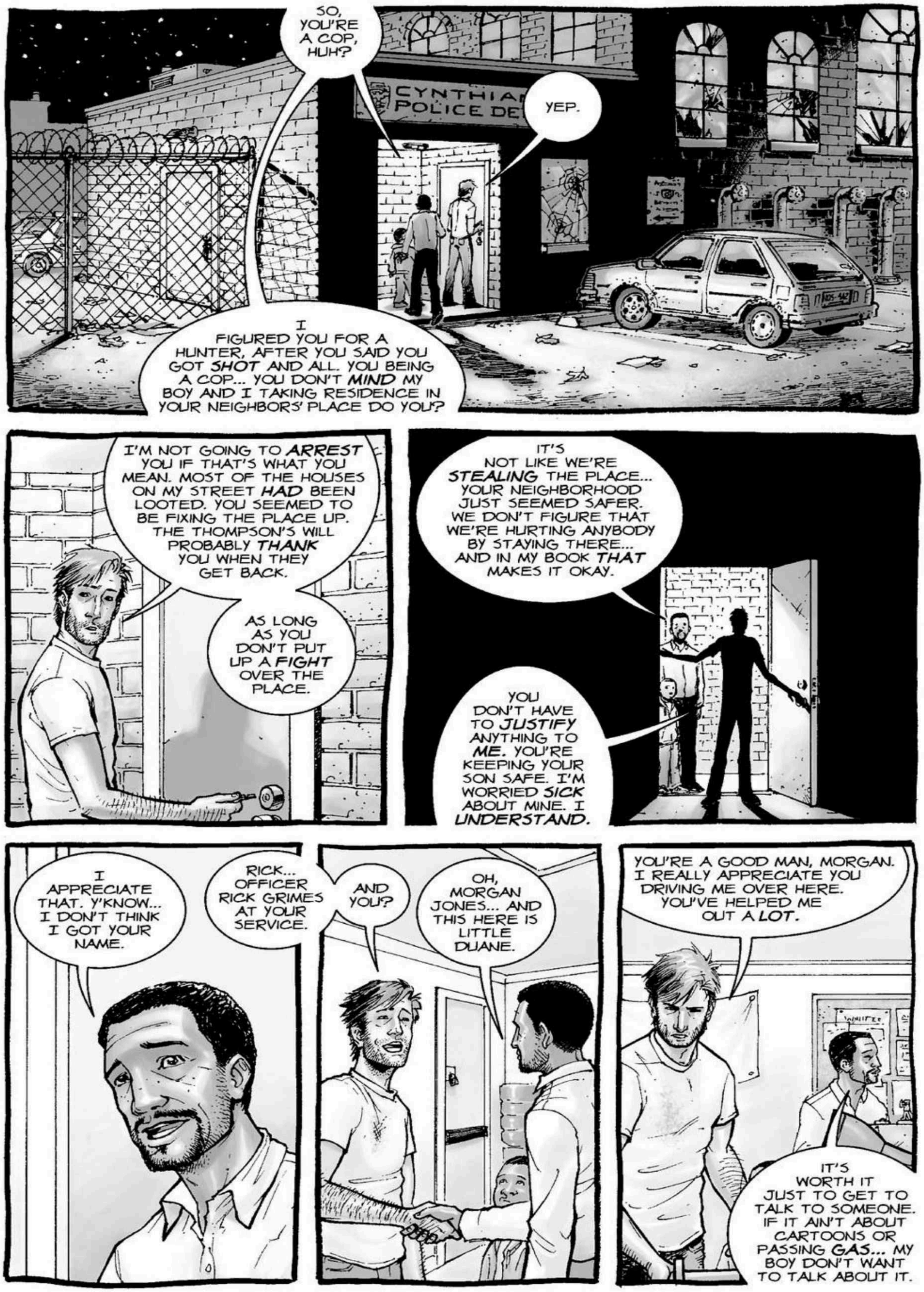

SON OF A BITCH.

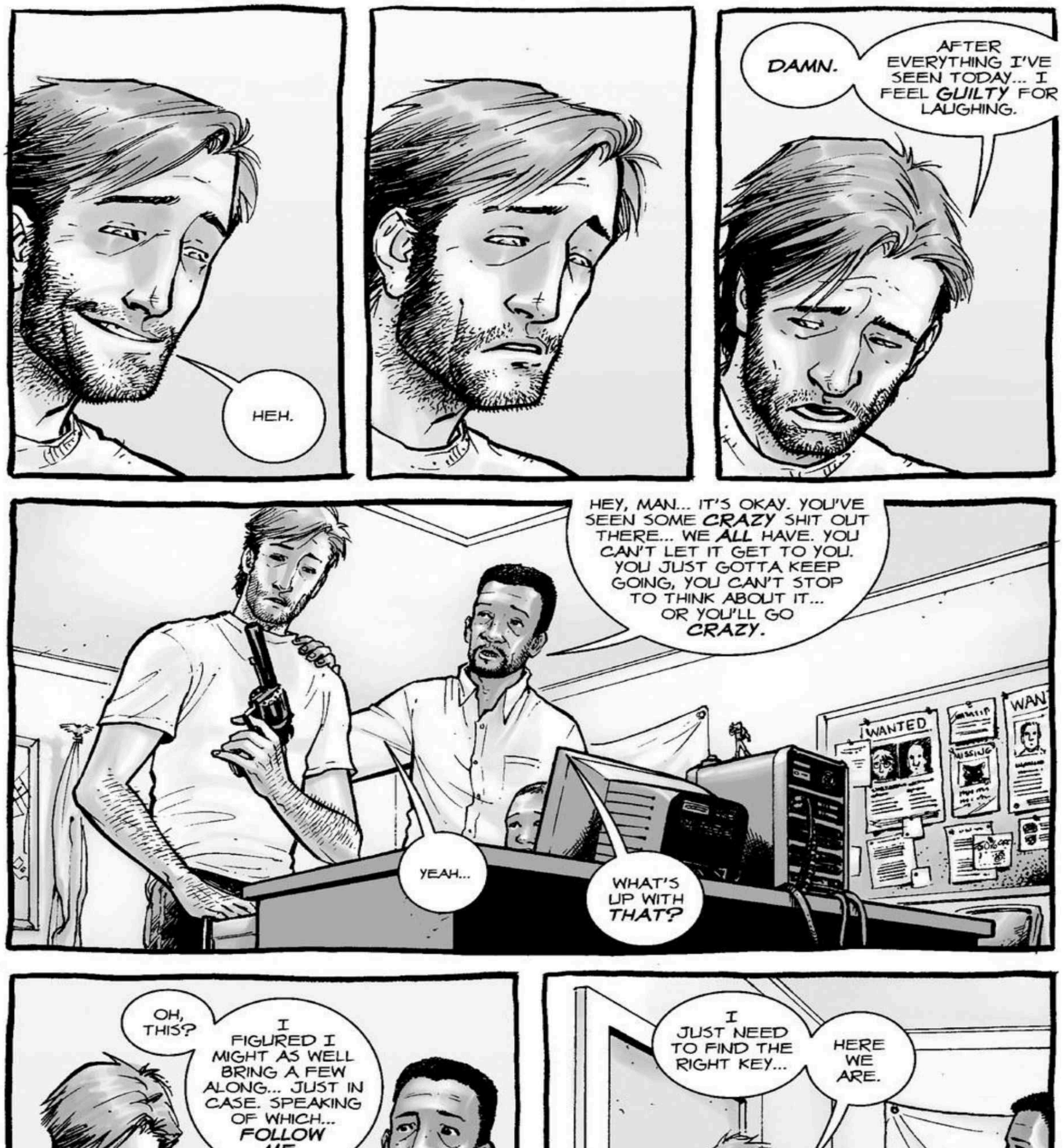

NOTHING.

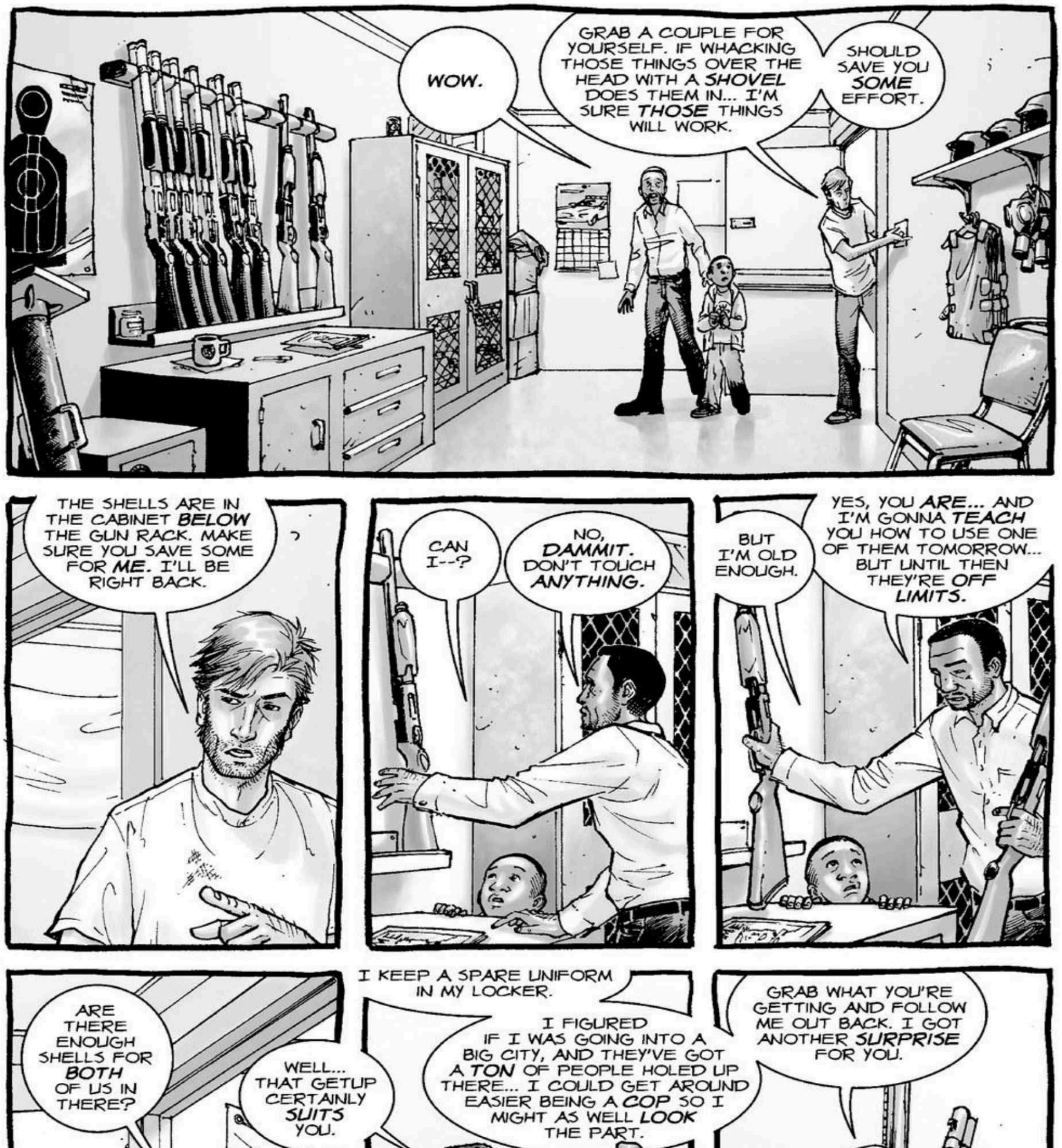

CLONGG!
DAD!
JESUS, SHIT!
SON... WHAT DID YOU DO?
HE WAS GOING TO TRY TO EAT US, DAD.
NO, SON... THIS MAN IS ALIVE.
OH.
GRAB HIS FEET... HELP ME GET HIM INSIDE.

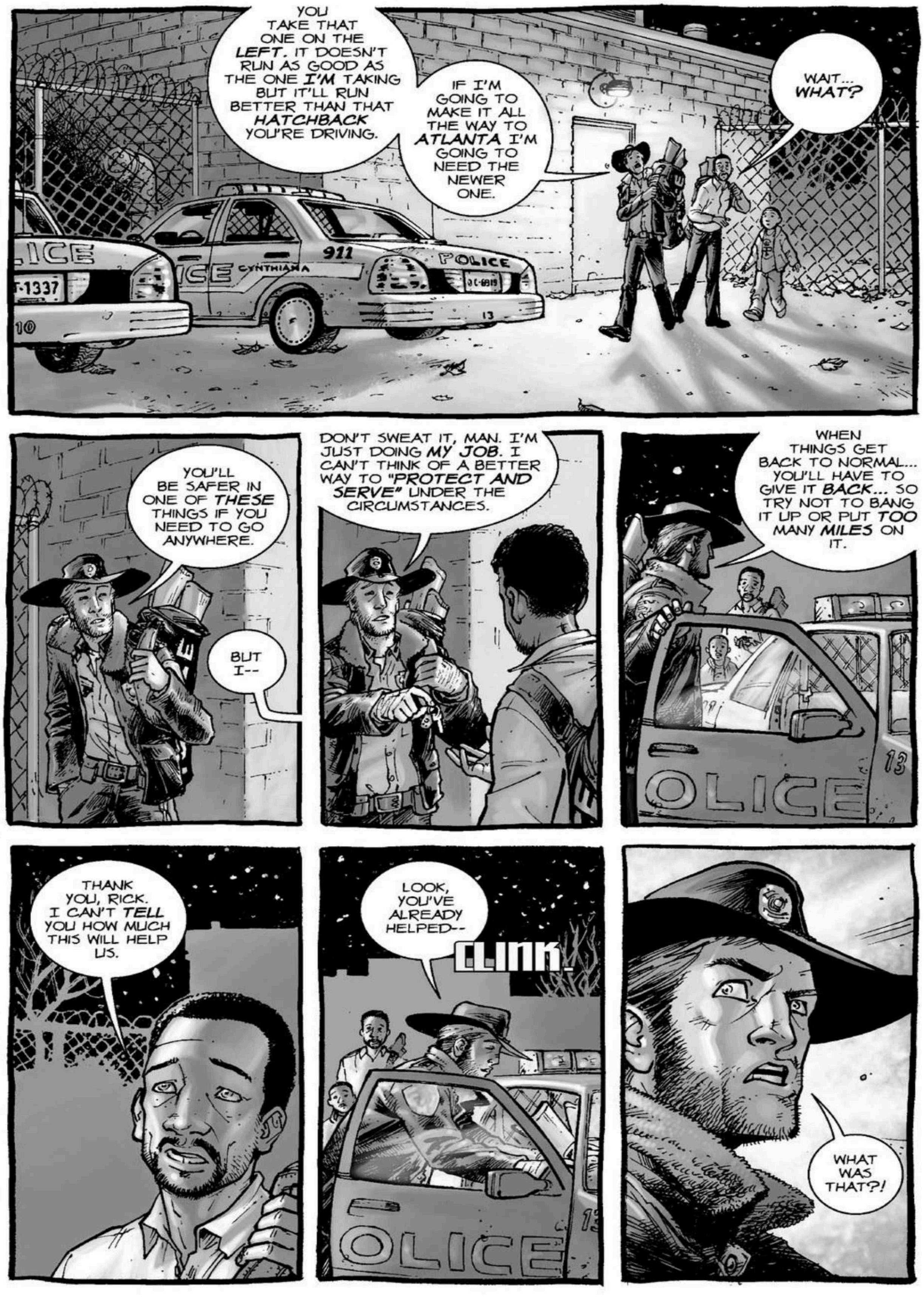

HUH?
OH, YOU'RE AWAKE. WE'RE JUST GETTING READY TO HAVE DINNER.
WOULD YOU CARE TO JOIN US?
WAIT. WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?!
OH, SORRY ABOUT MY BOY. HE HIT YOU OVER THE HEAD WITH A SHOVEL.
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HE THOUGHT YOU WERE ONE OF THOSE... THINGS.
"THINGS?" YOU MEAN THOSE MONSTERS THAT ARE AT THE HOSPITAL?! WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE? WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?
WHOA, WHOA... CALM DOWN THERE BUDDY. THIS WAS ALL JUST A MISUNDERSTANDING. MY BOY DIDN'T MEAN NOTHING.
HOW DID IT ALL HAPPEN? WHAT WENT WRONG?
WAIT A MINUTE. HOLD UP.
DAMN, SON... YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT ANY OF IT?

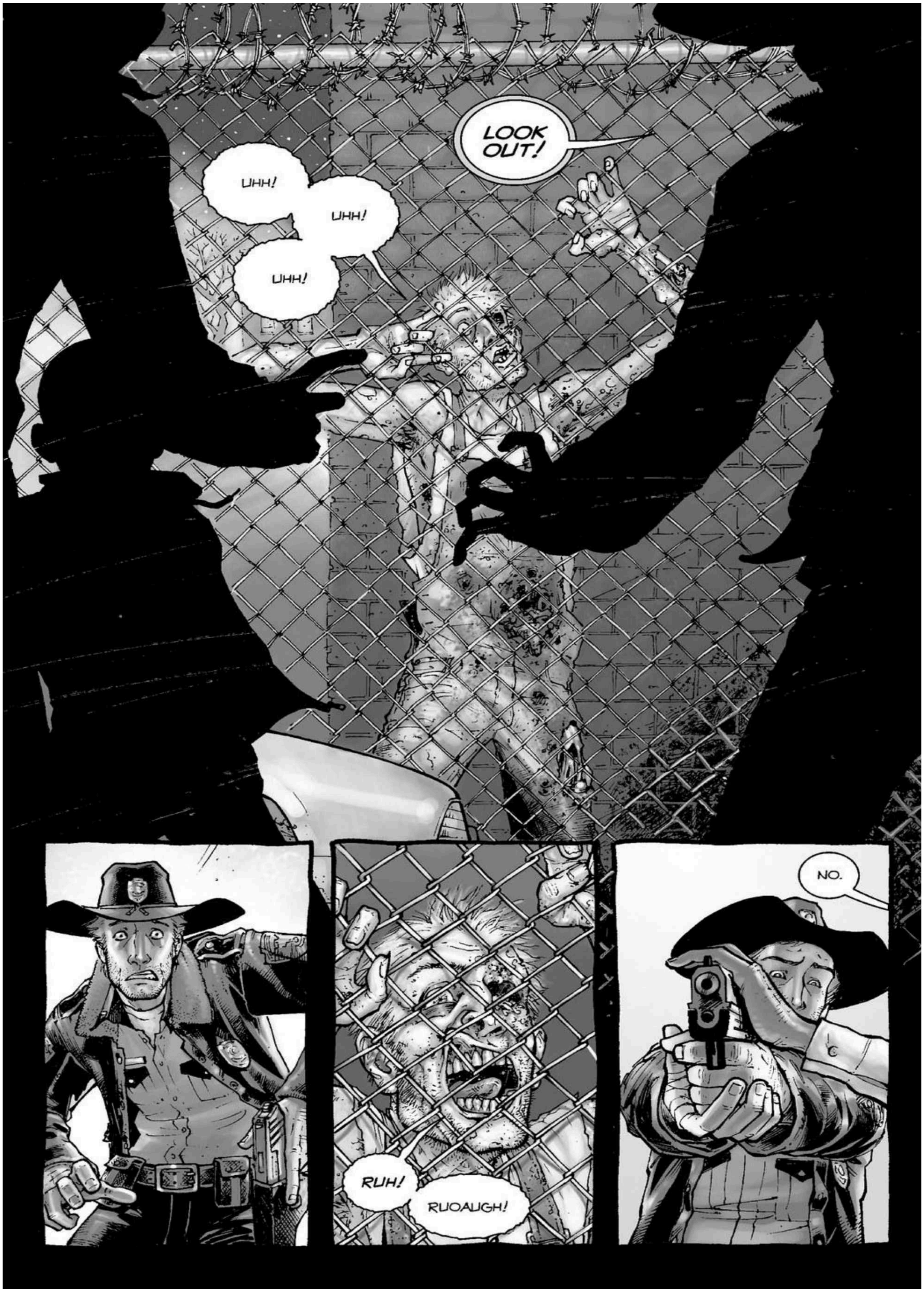

I WAS SHOT... I WOKE UP IN THE HOSPITAL AND WAS ATTACKED. I CAME HOME... MY WIFE AND KID WERE GONE... THE WHOLE DAMN TOWN WAS DESERTED. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL WAS GOING ON.
YOU SAY NOBODY KNOWS WHAT CAUSED IT?
ALL MEDIA SHUT DOWN AFTER A FEW WEEKS. I HAVEN'T HEARD MUCH OF ANYTHING AFTER THAT. IF THEY FOUND A WAY TO STOP IT... THEY HAVEN'T MADE IT HERE YET. THOSE THINGS ARE EVERYWHERE.
A GOOD BLOW TO THE HEAD WILL TAKE 'EM OUT. THAT'S WHY THE BOY WHACKED YOU WITH OUR SHOVEL. NOTHING MUCH ELSE SEEMS TO FAZE THEM. ANYTIME ONE WANDERS INTO THE YARD WE TAKE CARE OF IT. WE TRY TO KEEP QUIET... THEY'D COME AFTER US IF THEY KNEW WE WAS HERE.
BEFORE THEY STOPPED BROADCASTING THEY TOLD US TO RELOCATE TO THE BIGGER CITIES. THEY SAID THEY COULD PROTECT US ALL THERE. I FIGURED I'D BE BETTER OFF TAKING MY CHANCES HERE.
MY IN-LAWS LIVE IN ATLANTA... THAT'S ONLY A FIVE-HOUR DRIVE FROM HERE. THAT'S PROBABLY WHERE MY WIFE WENT.
THANK GOD... IF THEY'RE PROTECTING THE CITIES... MAN, I WAS SO WORRIED.
OH, YEAH... I'M SURE THEY'RE FINE.
WELL... I NEED A CAR IF I'M GOING TO GET TO ATLANTA...
WANT TO GO SHOPPING?

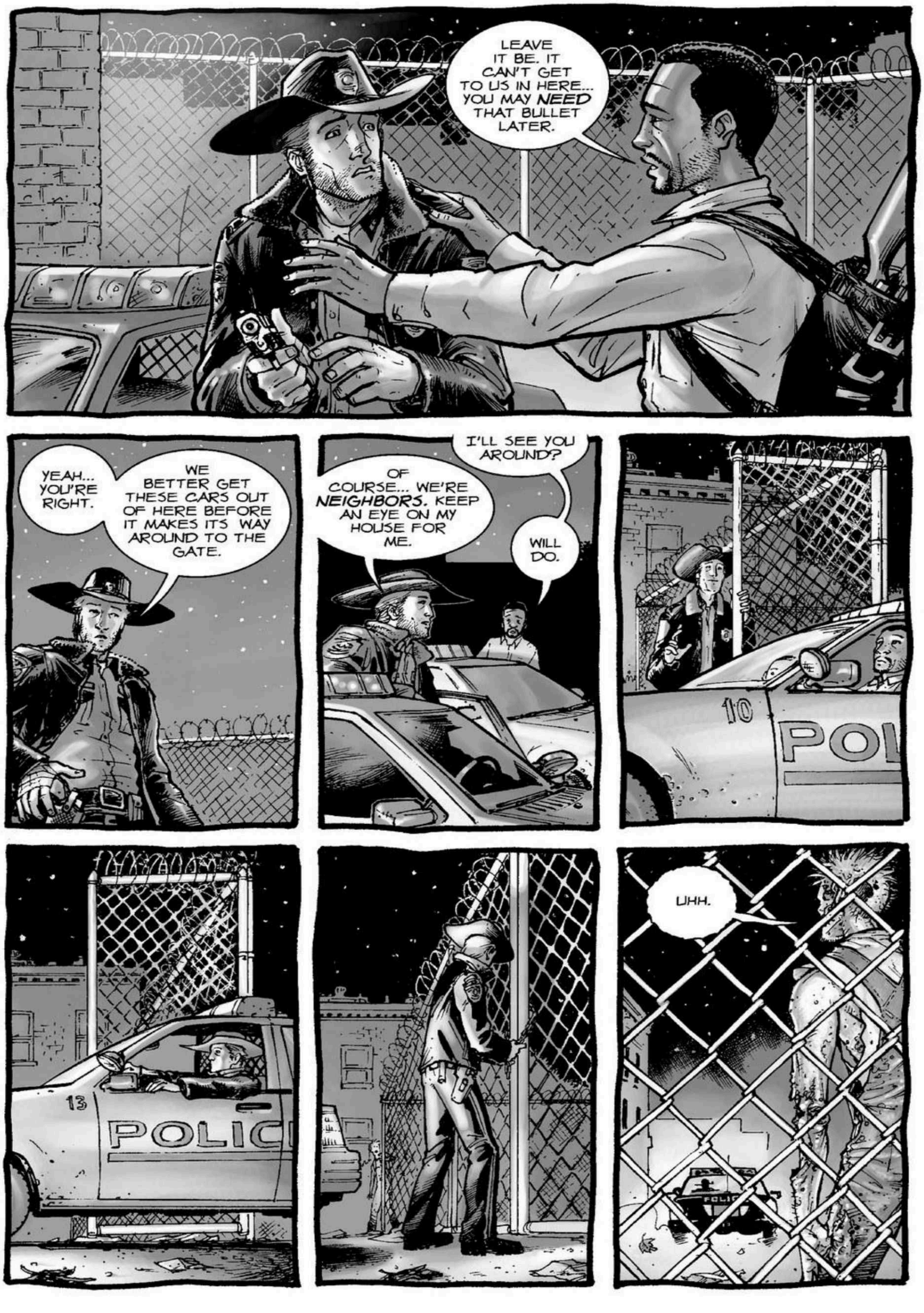

SO, YOU'RE A COP, HUH?
CYNTHIA
POLICE DE
YEP.
I FIGURED YOU FOR A HUNTER, AFTER YOU SAID YOU GOT *SHOT* AND ALL. YOU BEING A COP... YOU DON'T *MIND* MY BOY AND I TAKING RESIDENCE IN YOUR NEIGHBORS' PLACE DO YOU?
I'M NOT GOING TO *ARREST* YOU IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN. MOST OF THE HOUSES ON MY STREET *HAD* BEEN LOOTED. YOU SEEMED TO BE FIXING THE PLACE UP. THE THOMPSON'S WILL PROBABLY *THANK* YOU WHEN THEY GET BACK.
AS LONG AS YOU DON'T PUT UP A *FIGHT* OVER THE PLACE.
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE *STEALING* THE PLACE... YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD JUST SEEMED SAFER. WE DON'T FIGURE THAT WE'RE HURTING ANYBODY BY STAYING THERE... AND IN MY BOOK *THAT* MAKES IT OKAY.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO *JUSTIFY* ANYTHING TO *ME.* YOU'RE KEEPING YOUR SON SAFE. I'M WORRIED *SICK* ABOUT MINE. I *UNDERSTAND.*
I APPRECIATE THAT. Y'KNOW... I DON'T THINK I GOT YOUR NAME.
RICK... OFFICER RICK GRIMES AT YOUR SERVICE.
AND YOU?
OH, MORGAN JONES... AND THIS HERE IS LITTLE DUANE.
YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, MORGAN. I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU DRIVING ME OVER HERE. YOU'VE HELPED ME OUT A *LOT.*
IT'S WORTH IT JUST TO GET TO TALK TO SOMEONE. IF IT AIN'T ABOUT CARTOONS OR PASSING *GAS...* MY BOY DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.

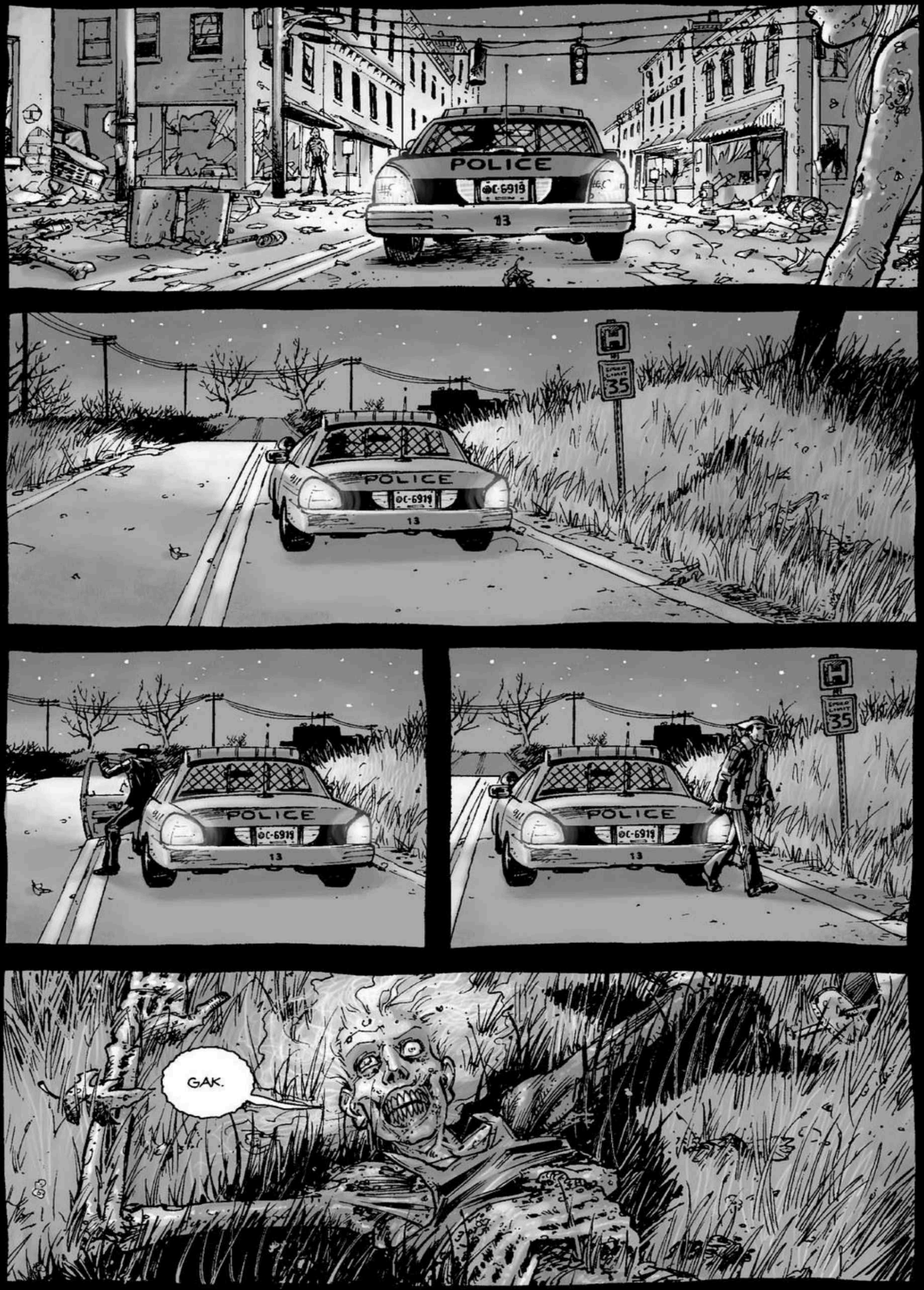

HEH.
DAMN.
AFTER EVERYTHING I'VE SEEN TODAY... I FEEL *GUILTY* FOR LAUGHING.
HEY, MAN... IT'S OKAY. YOU'VE SEEN SOME *CRAZY* SHIT OUT THERE... WE *ALL* HAVE. YOU CAN'T LET IT GET TO YOU. YOU JUST GOTTA KEEP GOING, YOU CAN'T STOP TO THINK ABOUT IT... OR YOU'LL GO *CRAZY*.
WANTED
WANTED
MISSING
YEAH...
WHAT'S UP WITH *THAT?*
OH, THIS?
I FIGURED I MIGHT AS WELL BRING A FEW ALONG... JUST IN CASE. SPEAKING OF WHICH... *FOLLOW ME.*
I JUST NEED TO FIND THE RIGHT KEY...
HERE WE ARE.

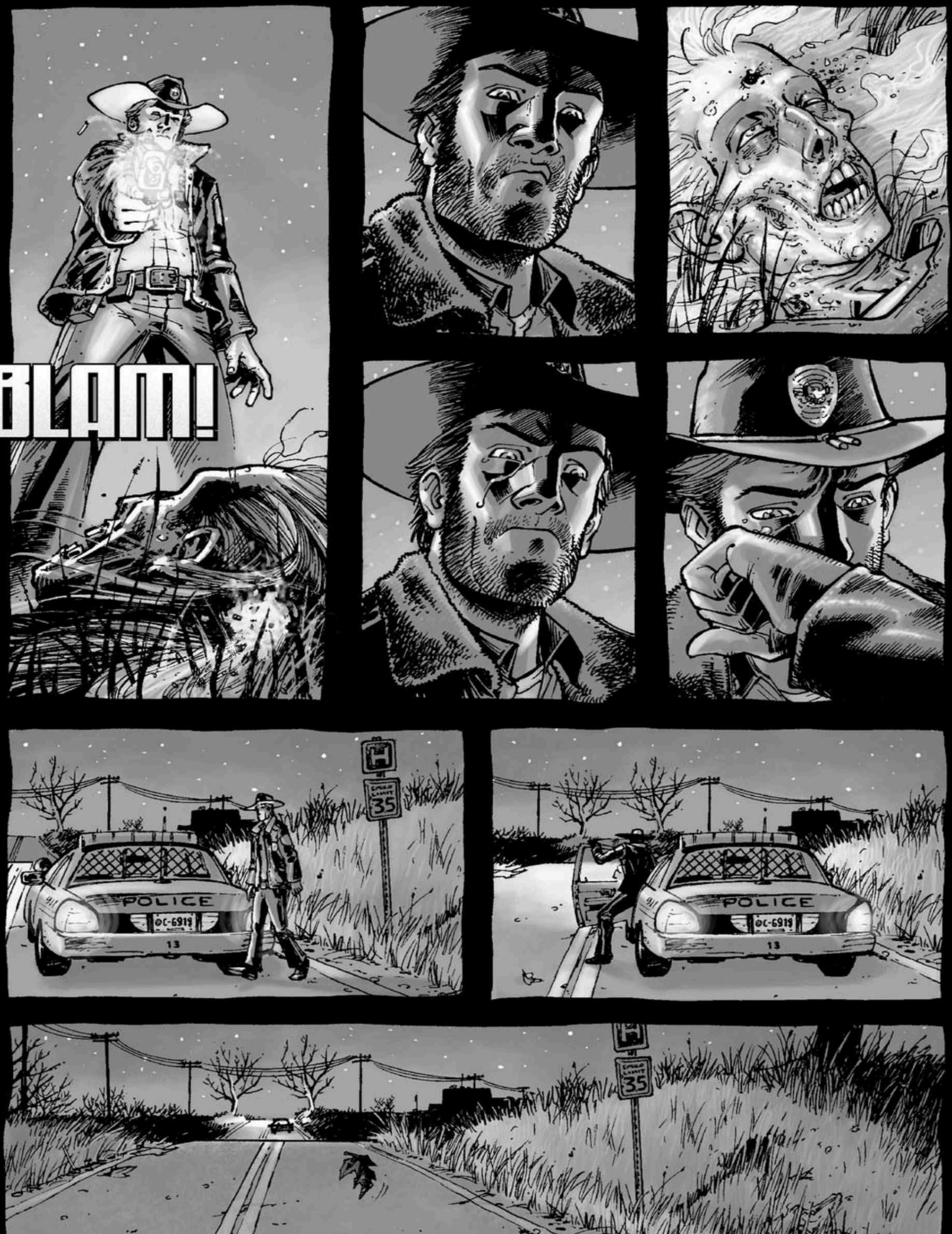

WOW.
GRAB A COUPLE FOR YOURSELF. IF WHACKING THOSE THINGS OVER THE HEAD WITH A SHOVEL DOES THEM IN... I'M SURE THOSE THINGS WILL WORK.
SHOULD SAVE YOU SOME EFFORT.
THE SHELLS ARE IN THE CABINET BELOW THE GUN RACK. MAKE SURE YOU SAVE SOME FOR ME. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
CAN I--?
NO, DAMMIT. DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING.
BUT I'M OLD ENOUGH.
YES, YOU ARE... AND I'M GONNA TEACH YOU HOW TO USE ONE OF THEM TOMORROW... BUT UNTIL THEN THEY'RE OFF LIMITS.
ARE THERE ENOUGH SHELLS FOR BOTH OF US IN THERE?
WELL... THAT GETUP CERTAINLY SUITS YOU.
I KEEP A SPARE UNIFORM IN MY LOCKER.
I FIGURED IF I WAS GOING INTO A BIG CITY, AND THEY'VE GOT A TON OF PEOPLE HOLED UP THERE... I COULD GET AROUND EASIER BEING A COP SO I MIGHT AS WELL LOOK THE PART.
GRAB WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AND FOLLOW ME OUT BACK. I GOT ANOTHER SURPRISE FOR YOU.


YOU TAKE THAT ONE ON THE *LEFT.* IT DOESN'T RUN AS GOOD AS THE ONE *I'M* TAKING BUT IT'LL RUN BETTER THAN THAT *HATCHBACK* YOU'RE DRIVING.
IF I'M GOING TO MAKE IT ALL THE WAY TO *ATLANTA* I'M GOING TO NEED THE NEWER ONE.
WAIT... *WHAT?*
LICE
F-1337
10
ICE CYNTHIANA
911
POLICE
13
YOU'LL BE SAFER IN ONE OF *THESE* THINGS IF YOU NEED TO GO ANYWHERE.
BUT I--
DON'T SWEAT IT, MAN. I'M JUST DOING *MY JOB.* I CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER WAY TO *"PROTECT AND SERVE"* UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
WHEN THINGS GET BACK TO NORMAL... YOU'LL HAVE TO GIVE IT *BACK...* SO TRY NOT TO BANG IT UP OR PUT *TOO* MANY *MILES* ON IT.
13
OLICE
THANK YOU, RICK. I CAN'T *TELL* YOU HOW MUCH THIS WILL HELP US.
LOOK, YOU'VE ALREADY HELPED--
CLINK.
OLICE
13
WHAT WAS THAT?!


LOOK OUT!
UHH!
UHH!
UHH!
RUH!
RUOAUGH!
NO.


LEAVE IT BE. IT CAN'T GET TO US IN HERE... YOU MAY **NEED** THAT BULLET LATER.
YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT.
WE BETTER GET THESE *CARS* OUT OF HERE BEFORE IT MAKES ITS WAY AROUND TO THE GATE.
I'LL SEE YOU AROUND?
OF COURSE... WE'RE ***NEIGHBORS.*** KEEP AN EYE ON MY HOUSE FOR ME.
WILL DO.
10
POL
13
POLIC
UHH.


POLICE
C-6919
13
H
SPEED LIMIT
35
GAK.


BLAM!
POLICE
C-6919
13
35
POLICE
C-6919
13
35

THE WALKING DEAD™

WRITE TO US AT:

THE WALKING DEAD
C/O FUNK-O-TRON
P.O. BOX 54386
LEXINGTON, KY 40555-4386

OR

WALKINGDEAD@FUNKOTRON.COM

I'm not trying to scare anybody. If that somehow happens as a result of reading this comic that's great, but really... that's not what this book is about. What you now hold in your hands is the most serious piece of work I've done so far in my career. I'm the guy that created Battle Pope; I hope you guys realize what a stretch this is for me. It's really not that hard to believe when you realize that I'm delving into subject matter that is so utterly serious and dramatic...

Zombies.

To me, the best zombie movies aren't the splatter fests of gore and violence with goofy characters and tongue in cheek antics. Good zombie movies show us how messed up we are, they make us question our station in society... and our society's station in the world. They show us gore and violence and all that cool stuff too... but there's always an undercurrent of social commentary and thoughtfulness. That's what makes the Romero films so great.

With "The Walking Dead" I want to explore how people deal with extreme situations and how these events CHANGE them. I'm in this for the long haul, and I'm pretty sure Tony is too. You guys are going to get to see Rick change and mature to the point that when you look back on this issue you won't even recognize him. I hope you guys are looking forward to a sprawling epic, because that's the idea with this one.

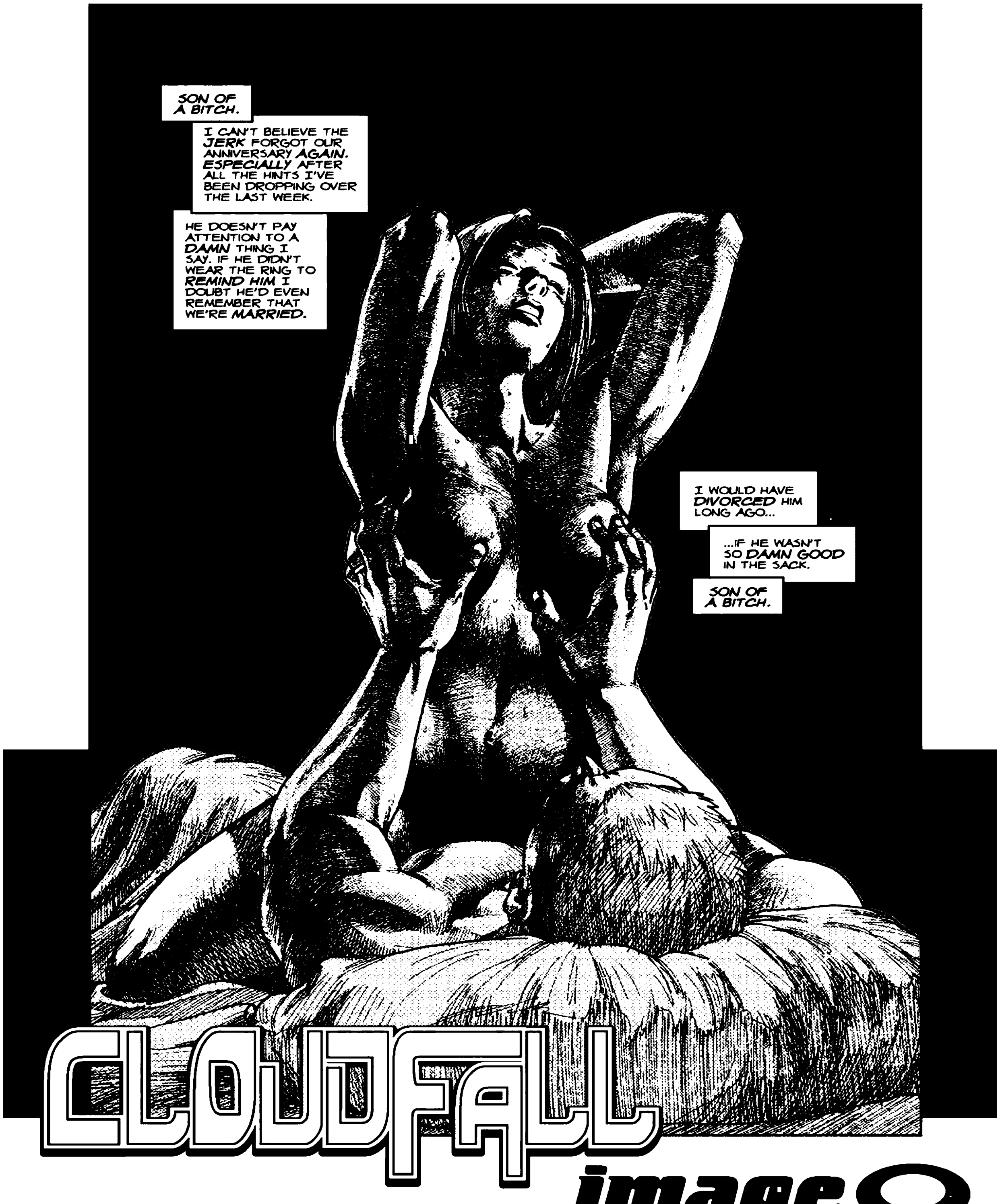
So, if anything scares you... great, but this is NOT a horror book. I like the term "survivalist adventure." I think that one works well with what we're trying to do. This book is more about watching Rick survive than it is about watching zombies pop around the corner and scare you. I hope that's what you guys are into.

All story commentary aside, at the very least, even if you hate the thing... you've got to admit... it at least looks good. I've been working with Tony Moore for as long as I can remember. I've SEEN Tony's work, I KNOW Tony's work, and I've got to say... just in case you didn't notice... Tony really pulled out all the stops one this one. I can really tell that he shares my immense love for the subject matter. This book is really a thing of beauty. I couldn't be more pleased with how it's turning out. I hope you all agree.

So let us know, tell us what you liked, tell us what you didn't like. Send praise, gripes, whatever... call us names if you want... but let us know what you think of what we're doing. The needed info is somewhere on this page I'm sure, so there's really no excuse. It'll give you something to do while you wait for the second issue, but I promise... it won't be more than a month.

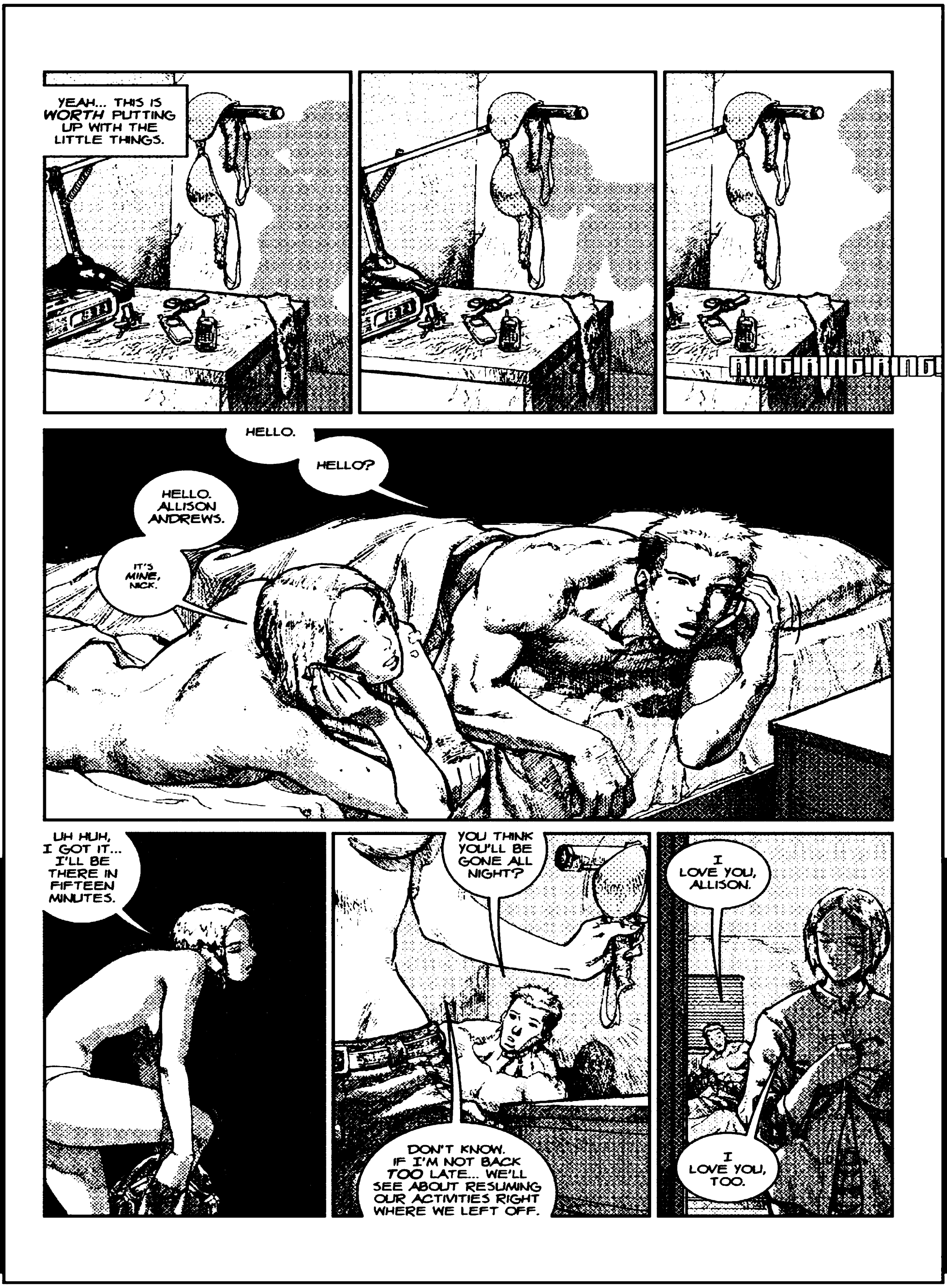
-Robert Kirkman

VIEW PREVIEW PREVIEW PREVIEW PRE

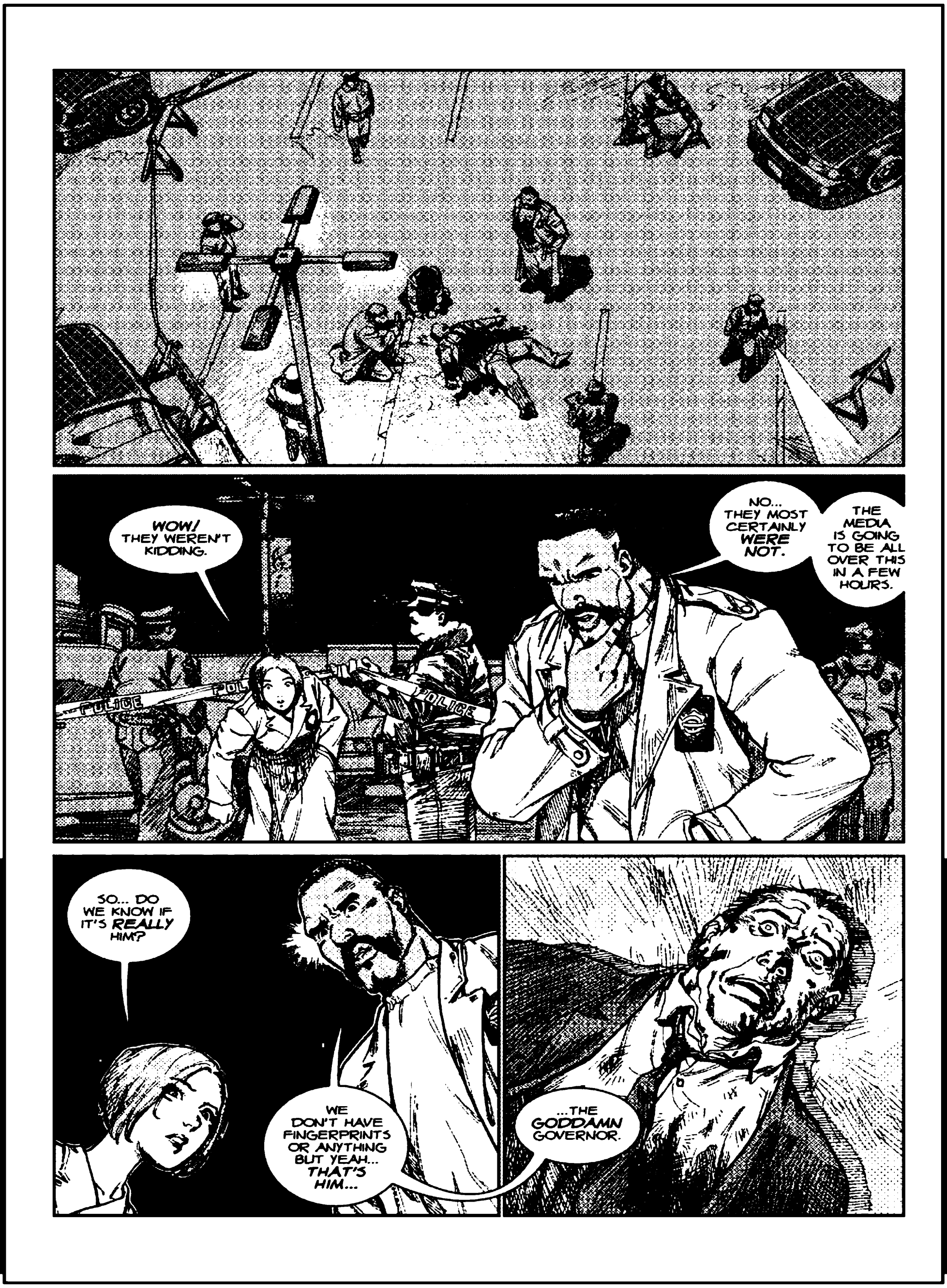

SON OF A BITCH.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE JERK FORGOT OUR ANNIVERSARY AGAIN. ESPECIALLY AFTER ALL THE HINTS I'VE BEEN DROPPING OVER THE LAST WEEK.
HE DOESN'T PAY ATTENTION TO A DAMN THING I SAY. IF HE DIDN'T WEAR THE RING TO REMIND HIM I DOUBT HE'D EVEN REMEMBER THAT WE'RE MARRIED.
I WOULD HAVE DIVORCED HIM LONG AGO...
...IF HE WASN'T SO DAMN GOOD IN THE SACK.
SON OF A BITCH.
CLOUDFALL

image

EW PREVIEW PREVIEW_PREVIEW PRE

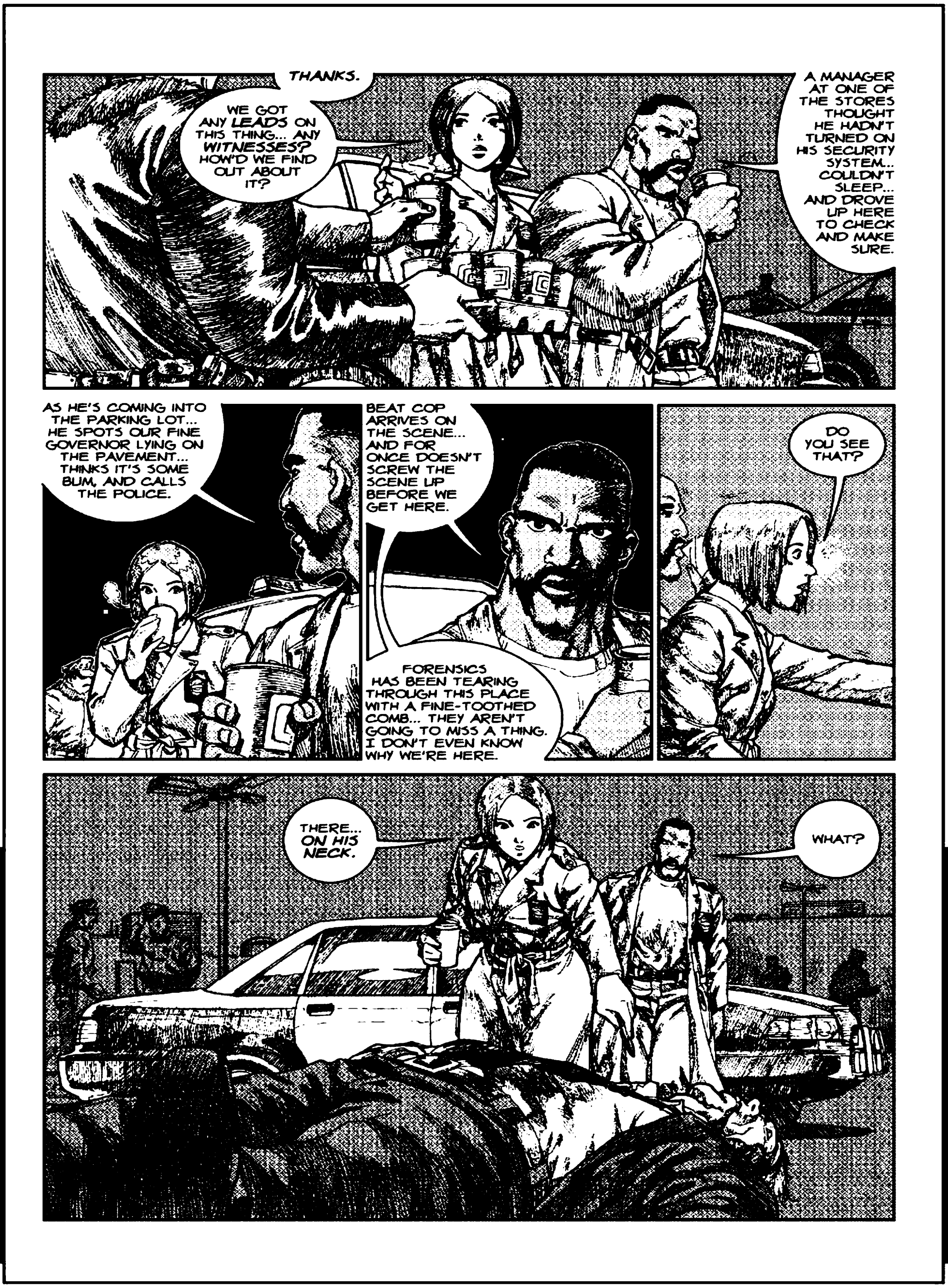

YEAH... THIS IS WORTH PUTTING UP WITH THE LITTLE THINGS.
RING! RING! RING!
HELLO.
HELLO?
HELLO. ALLISON ANDREWS.
IT'S MINE, NICK.
UH HUH, I GOT IT... I'LL BE THERE IN FIFTEEN MINUTES.
YOU THINK YOU'LL BE GONE ALL NIGHT?
DON'T KNOW. IF I'M NOT BACK TOO LATE... WE'LL SEE ABOUT RESUMING OUR ACTIVITIES RIGHT WHERE WE LEFT OFF.
I LOVE YOU, ALLISON.
I LOVE YOU, TOO.

IEW PREVIEW PREVIEW PREVIEW PRE


WOW! THEY WEREN'T KIDDING.
POLICE
NO... THEY MOST CERTAINLY WERE NOT.
THE MEDIA IS GOING TO BE ALL OVER THIS IN A FEW HOURS.
SO... DO WE KNOW IF IT'S REALLY HIM?
WE DON'T HAVE FINGERPRINTS OR ANYTHING BUT YEAH... THAT'S HIM...
...THE GODDAMN GOVERNOR.

image

EW PREVIEW PREVIEW PREVIEW PRE


THANKS.
WE GOT ANY LEADS ON THIS THING... ANY WITNESSES? HOW'D WE FIND OUT ABOUT IT?
A MANAGER AT ONE OF THE STORES THOUGHT HE HADN'T TURNED ON HIS SECURITY SYSTEM... COULDN'T SLEEP... AND DROVE UP HERE TO CHECK AND MAKE SURE.
AS HE'S COMING INTO THE PARKING LOT... HE SPOTS OUR FINE GOVERNOR LYING ON THE PAVEMENT... THINKS IT'S SOME BUM, AND CALLS THE POLICE.
BEAT COP ARRIVES ON THE SCENE... AND FOR ONCE DOESN'T SCREW THE SCENE UP BEFORE WE GET HERE.
FORENSICS HAS BEEN TEARING THROUGH THIS PLACE WITH A FINE-TOOTHED COMB... THEY AREN'T GOING TO MISS A THING. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY WE'RE HERE.
DO YOU SEE THAT?
THERE... ON HIS NECK.
WHAT?

image

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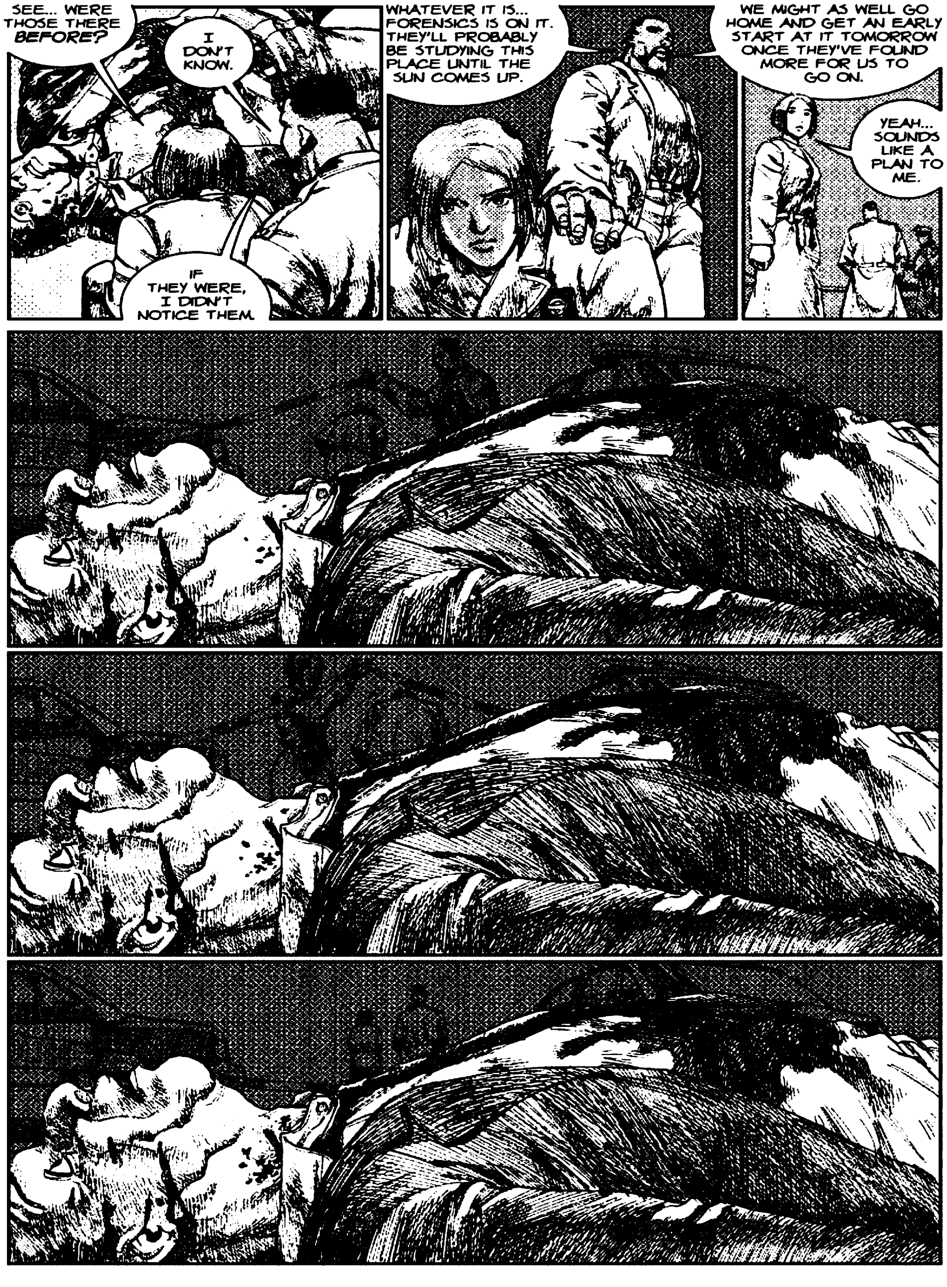
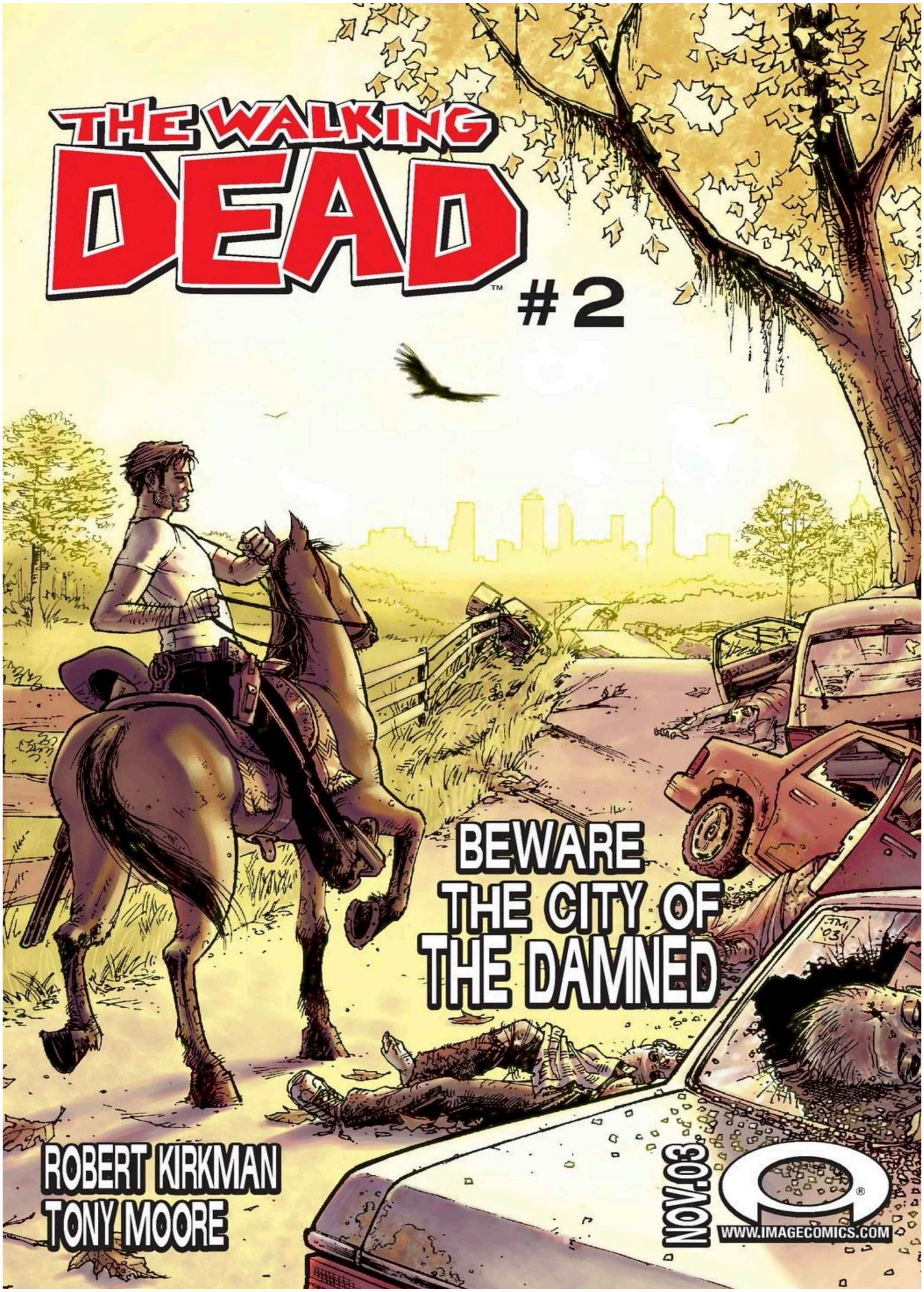

SEE... WERE THOSE THERE *BEFORE?*
I DON'T KNOW.
IF THEY WERE, I DIDN'T NOTICE THEM.
WHATEVER IT IS... FORENSICS IS ON IT. THEY'LL PROBABLY BE STUDYING THIS PLACE UNTIL THE SUN COMES UP.
WE MIGHT AS WELL GO HOME AND GET AN EARLY START AT IT TOMORROW ONCE THEY'VE FOUND MORE FOR US TO GO ON.
YEAH... SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN TO ME.

TO BE CONTINUED IN NOVEMBER
IN CLOUDFALL #1


THE WALKING DEAD™
#2
BEWARE THE CITY OF THE DAMNED
ROBERT KIRKMAN
TONY MOORE
NOV.03
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